

Asya Reznikov's fish was one of the many pieces of glass art created for the MIT Glass Lab's annual sale this week in Lobby 10. To learn more about studio glass blowing, visit the lab in 4-003.

ERIKA BROWN—THE TECH

Padilla Discusses Public Service

By Naveen Sunkavally
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The economy may be booming and the job market for engineers may be better than ever, but MIT graduates don't have to dedicate their lives to careers in science and technology. Just look at Alex Padilla, Class of 1994 graduate and Los Angeles City Councilman.

Padilla, who lived at Bexley Hall and majored in Mechanical Engineering while at MIT, spoke on Tuesday to a packed classroom about the role that his engineering education has played in his career in public service.

"An MIT education is impressive because it's unique. There are not a lot of engineers [in public service]," Padilla said. He said that the critical thinking and problem solving skills which engineers have can be useful in public office.

"The running joke was ... that the average IQ of the Council doubled when I joined," Padilla said. Padilla, who had worked at Hughes Aircraft Co. before his term on Council, said he was inspired to run by the successful bid of a friend for public office, declining prospects in the aerospace industry, and an underlying devotion to community service.

Padilla said his most important experience at MIT was failing 8.02 twice. It came to the point that he was questioning whether he should leave MIT, but he decided to "suck

Padilla, Page 16

Pheiffer to Serve As New IFC President

By Rima Arnaout
NEWS EDITOR

The Interfraternity Council elected its new officers in a meeting on Wednesday, selecting Rory P. Pheiffer '02 as president for the coming year.

"There were more people running than in past years but more people running means a better chance to get the best," said current IFC President Damien A. Brosnan '01. "The combination of skills that the newly elected members have brought, along with their enthusiasm and open-mindedness, makes them very qualified for their jobs."

Pheiffer will be working with Vice President Bryan D. Schmid '03, Secretary Yolanda Fan '02, Judicial Committee Chairman Thomas B. Fisher '02, Risk Manager Andrew T. Yue '03, and Treasurer Isaac M. Dinner '02.

Pheiffer said that the IFC's "biggest problem right now is that we don't have a unified front." He believes that this disunity will prevent the IFC from taking effective action when the time comes.

Pheiffer mentioned the IFC's new Grass Roots program as a way to improve inter-FSILG communication. He said that the Inter-FSILG Relations Chair, a new position filled by David N. Nguyen '02, "is going to be very important in the next year in creating unity among the members of the IFC."

Pheiffer also believes that the IFC has had problems communicating with the media. As part of its recent restructuring, the IFC replaced its Public Relations Chair with an External Relations Chair, Christine M. Ortiz '04, who will communicate with the media.

Pheiffer also hopes to improve the relations between FSILGs and local licensing boards. He plans to meet with Boston Licensing Board Chairman Daniel F. Pokaski "to continue strong relations with the

IFC, Page 19

Residents Criticize Town-Gown Report



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

MIT Executive Vice President John Curry presents MIT's short-term construction plans and answers criticisms from Cambridge residents at Tuesday's Planning Board meeting.

By Dana Levine
NEWS DIRECTOR

MIT's annual Town-Gown report brought on questions and criticism from the Cambridge Planning Board and Cambridgeport residents during the presentation on Tuesday evening.

The evening began with a multimedia presentation of MIT's current construction projects and other goals. MIT Executive Vice Presi-

dent John Curry mentioned the Ray and Maria Stata Center, the new neuroscience building, and the new undergraduate and graduate dormitories as examples of how MIT is expanding its campus.

Curry believes that these new buildings are designed to fit into the surrounding community. "We are developing in accordance with the nature of the sections of Cambridge that abut us," he said.

However, Cambridge residents expressed dissatisfaction about MIT's current planning process. "As a long time resident of Cambridgeport, I want to express my displeasure with that process," said area resident Bill Kelley. Kelley said that the graduate dorm was announced too late in the planning process for neighbors to have a say in its construction.

Board asks for master plans

A central issue in the discussion was the apparent lack of a public master plan for the development of MIT-owned properties. "You're obviously engaging in master planning, and I would love it if you would share it with us," said Board member Kevin Benjamin.

City Councillor Henrietta Davis raised concerns that MIT has recently been expanding its campus towards Brookline Street. "MIT has been acquiring a great deal of property between the railroad tracks and Brookline Street. These purchases lead us to believe that the campus is intended to expand to Brookline Street," she said.

Planning Board members also criticized MIT for only discussing

Town-Gown, Page 18

OPINION

Eric J. Plosky compares elections in the United States with those around the world.

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WORLD & NATION

Report Exposes Human Rights Violations by Israel, Palestine

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Israel has used "excessive and often indiscriminate" force against Palestinian civilians and has discriminated "in law and practice against ethnic and religious minorities" and women, a leading U.S. human rights organization charged Thursday.

In its 11th annual report reviewing human rights practices around the globe, Human Rights Watch said Israel's actions since a Palestinian uprising began last September had "greatly overshadowed and put into question" the country's earlier human rights improvements, including a decrease in the use of torture and a reduction in the number of people detained without charge.

The report also said that Palestinian security services, in dealing with their own citizens, "continued to operate with impunity, despite recurring cases of torture, arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention without charge or trial."

The survey of human rights issues in 70 countries included sharp criticism of Russia, which the report accused of committing war crimes and other violations of international law in Chechnya.

GOP Leaders Open Special Session in Florida Congress

LOS ANGELES TIMES

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

On the eve of a climactic Florida Supreme Court hearing, state Republican lawmakers Wednesday forged ahead with a special session to short-circuit Democratic legal challenges and hand George W. Bush the White House.

With the tacit approval of Bush's younger brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, legislators scheduled the unprecedented session for Friday.

"It would be irresponsible not to put a safety net under our votes," said state Senate President John McKay, who insisted he was acting on a nonpartisan basis. "The current slate of electors may be tainted — and we need to make sure the voters of Florida are not disenfranchised."

The move came as attorneys for the two sides prepared for yet another dramatic showdown this morning before Florida's high court, which is hearing Al Gore's appeal to overturn Bush's official victory.

In a brief filed Wednesday, attorneys for the vice president asked the high court to order a quick recount of disputed ballots and declare him president-elect if the votes overcome Bush's 537-vote lead.

Ryder Truck That Carried Ballots Now up for Auction on Internet

LOS ANGELES TIMES

After the ballot confetti we now know as chad, the yellow Ryder truck that delivered ballots to a Tallahassee, Fla., court could be the most enduring symbol of this historic election. Now the Chad Chariot can be yours — in an online auction.

"It's become a piece of history," said Allison Striegel of Budget Group, which owns the Ryder fleet. Since the truck's Nov. 30 voyage, Striegel said, the company has received so many offers to buy the truck and suggestions of museums to display it, Budget decided to put the 1999 Ford F350 on the Internet auction block. Proceeds will go to the American Red Cross.

As of Thursday afternoon, the top bid was \$30,600 — almost double the truck's book value. "Does it come with the ballots?" one bidder inquired. "I want to count them."

No, Palm Beach County's 462,000 hole-punched cards and their attendant chads are not included. Nor are the four television helicopters that filmed the yellow truck as it cruised 430 miles from West Palm Beach to Tallahassee.

As Deadline Nears, Florida Justices Hear Gore Appeal

By Roberto Suro

THE WASHINGTON POST

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

In what may be the final courtroom showdown of the disputed presidential election, the Florida Supreme Court Thursday wrestled with Vice President Al Gore's effort to overturn the election results, with several justices appearing open to Gore's argument he was unjustly denied one last recount but worried that time was running out and their power was limited.

In a fast-paced oral argument one month after election day, the seven justices appeared deeply divided over what Gore must need to prove to obtain another review, how many ballots would have to be examined, and whether there could be any remedy at this late stage. Although the justices repeatedly referred to the looming Dec. 12 deadline for the state to have its slate of electors in place, by early evening the court's spokesman indicated there would be no decision Thursday night.

The high court hearing — the second growing out of the presidential election — came the day before the Florida legislature is to gather in an unprecedented special session called

to consider naming a slate of presidential electors loyal to Texas Gov. George W. Bush if the legal disputes are not resolved by next week.

Two trials brought by Democrats complaining that election workers in Seminole and Martin Counties improperly allowed Republicans to fix absentee ballot applications also concluded Thursday, and ruling is expected in one or both cases Friday.

With the justices also under pressure to issue their decision quickly, all indications were that Friday would be a pivotal day in deciding the fate of the state's 25 electoral votes, and therefore the contest for the White House.

The justices bombarded attorneys from the opposing parties with 81 questions over the course of the 80-minute session. But the one certainty that emerged from the hearing is that the state high court is under pressure from the U.S. Supreme Court, which set aside one of its earlier rulings Monday, from the state legislature across the street, and from the calendar.

"Time is getting very short," said David Boies, Gore's lead trial attorney, in an understatement that nonetheless defined the situation.

Gore's best hope of winning the

presidency through legal action lies in convincing the state Supreme Court to examine all or some of 13,000 dimpled and partially indented ballots, searching for Democratic votes that did not register in a machine recount in Miami-Dade County, or were not accepted as valid votes in the Palm Beach county hand recount.

At least four of the justices questioned the legal basis for such a recount, asking whether a proper review would have to cover an entire county or even the entire state. Chief Justice Charles Wells seemed to doubt that it was physically possible to finish the count in time, stating flatly, "we don't have a remedy here that can do that by December the 12th."

The justices also asked numerous questions about the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court decision this week which warned them to pay deference to the pre-eminent role that the U.S. Constitution and federal law grants to state legislatures in setting the rules for presidential elections.

Gore's attorneys found some cheer in questions that raised objections to the legal reasoning in the Circuit Court's decision Monday concluding that Gore had failed to justify a recount.

Putin Could Pardon U.S. Spy

Clinton Cites Pope's Failing Health As Reason to Free Him

By Maura Reynolds

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Russian officials hinted Thursday that President Vladimir V. Putin may rapidly pardon and order the release of U.S. businessman Edmond Pope, who was convicted this week of spying and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Anatoly Pristavkin, chairman of the president's clemency commission, said Pope sent an appeal to Putin on Thursday, a day after his sentence was handed down. Putin immediately passed it to the commission, which plans to consider it Friday.

"I hope the commission will be merciful, as always, and will recommend that the president pardon Mr. Pope so he can leave for his homeland and reunite with his family," Pristavkin said in an interview on state television.

"The commission will take humanitarian factors into account — that Mr. Pope said in his letter that his father is dying, that he himself is very ill, and that he would like to be reunited with his family," Pristavkin said.

The final decision rests with Putin. However, in the past the president has nearly always followed the recommendations of the clemency commission, whose members are prominent intellectuals and cultural figures.

"More likely than not, he ought to be pardoned," journalist Alexander Bovin, another commission

member, said late Thursday.

Pope's lawyer said his client was distraught after Wednesday's sentencing hearing and decided to forgo further legal appeals and instead apply directly to Putin for a pardon on humanitarian grounds.

"I feel unwell and need immediate medical care," Pope wrote, according to lawyer Pavel Astakhov. "I appeal to you to decide this issue as rapidly as possible, as my father is terminally ill and I would like to see him one last time."

Before his arrest in April, Pope was in remission from a rare form of bone cancer. He has complained that his health has deteriorated in prison, and he fears the cancer may have returned.

U.S. officials, including President Clinton, have repeatedly asked Putin to release Pope because of his failing health.

WEATHER

Winter's Frosty Preview

By Michael J. Ring

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Although the winter solstice is nearly two weeks away, most of the nation received a preview of the season's conditions this week. Much of the Northeast, Ohio Valley, and Great Plains struggled to break the freezing mark yesterday as brisk Canadian air continued to flow to the south. Unseasonably cold weather is expected to continue to rule the Midwest, and California farmers may be bracing for frost next week.

In New England, our weather over the next few days will be controlled by a cold front that pushed from the Great Lakes to Northeast overnight, bringing this morning's snow showers. An additional shot of cold air behind the front will chill holiday shoppers this weekend, but temperatures should moderate somewhat next week.

Weekend Outlook

Friday: Cloudy and cold with snow showers lingering through the afternoon. High temperature of 28°F (-2°C).

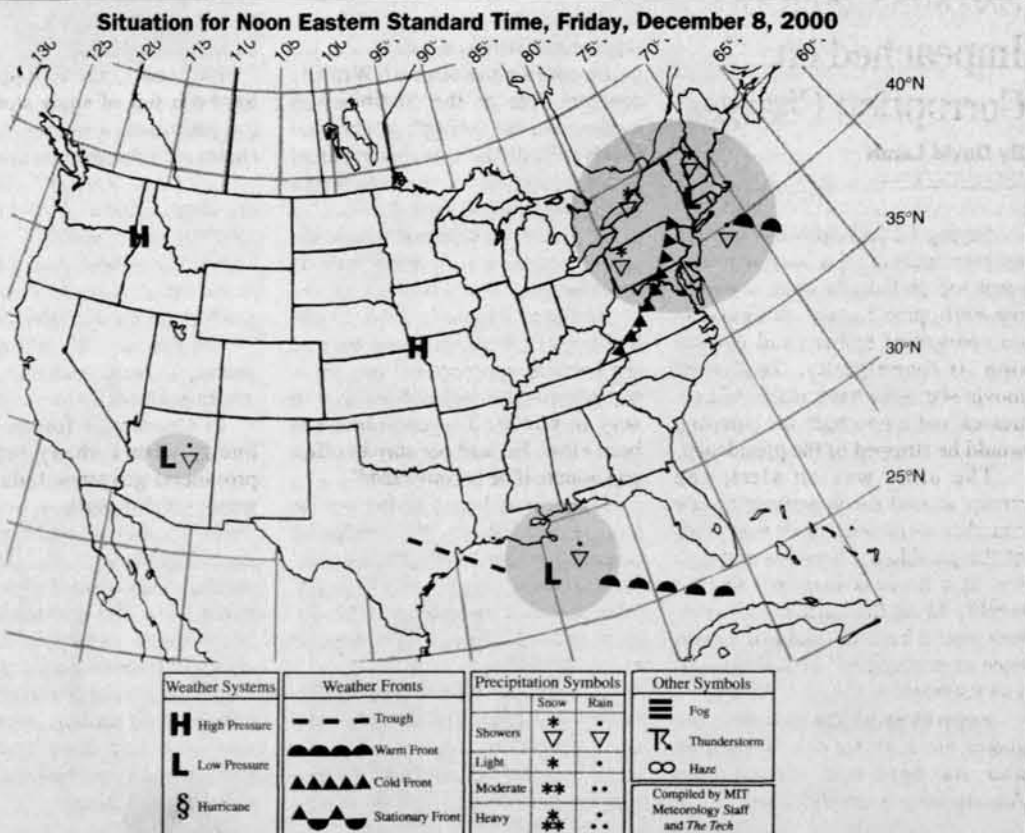
Friday night: A chance of flurries early, then mostly cloudy. Low near 15°F (-9°C).

Saturday: Mostly sunny and continued cold. High near 32°F (0°C) and low of 18°F (-8°C).

Sunday: Partly sunny early, with increasing cloudiness and a chance of flurries late. High temperature of 30°F (-1°C) and low of 23°F (-5°C).

Monday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of light snow or freezing rain. High of 37°F (3°C).

Tuesday: Milder, with a chance of rain. High near 45°F (7°C).



Opening of European Union Summit Marred by Protesters

By John-Thor Dahlburg

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NICE, FRANCE

Protesters ran amok in the chic, palm-lined streets of the Riviera's main resort city and police fought back with tear gas and stun grenades Thursday as the European Union opened its most important meeting in a decade.

For the rioters, a motley collection of leftist revolutionaries, anarchists and separatists, the 15-nation EU, which began as a customs union fostering greater intra-European trade, is a cog in the process of globalization that they blame for many of the modern world's ills.

As the trade bloc's leaders gathered in the morning at a squat downtown conference center aptly nicknamed "The Bunker" by Nice residents, an estimated 4,000 demonstrators set upon the site and got within 100 yards.

Young men, many of whom wore cowls or kerchiefs to hide their faces, hurled rocks, set fire to a bank branch, tossed fire extinguishers

through shop windows and painted slogans such as "Death to Money" on storefronts.

French officials, hosts for the Nice summit, had vowed that there would be none of the embarrassing mayhem here that disturbed last year's World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle or the International Monetary Fund's gathering in September in Prague, Czech Republic.

Choking clouds of smoke wafted in the direction of the convention center, making French President Jacques Chirac sneeze as he stood outside to greet foreign leaders. Some arriving dignitaries, including leaders of other European countries that want to join the EU, coughed and mopped their eyes.

"These acts are radically contrary to the democratic traditions of all European countries," Chirac later said in disgust. Authorities said 20 police officers were hurt in the fracas on Nice's rain-slicked streets, one seriously. Forty-five protesters were arrested.

The Nice summit is considered

the EU's most crucial since the 1991 Maastricht Treaty, which laid the basis for a common European currency, the euro, and serious consideration of common policies in fields including defense, citizenship and protection of the environment.

The ambitious agenda here calls for the European Union to reform its inner mechanisms so it can function after absorbing new members, chiefly ex-communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe. At present, 12 nations are negotiating to join, including the three former Baltic republics of the Soviet Union.

Interests of EU member states are often in conflict, however, and the meeting of heads of state and government here may turn out to be the longest ever. "The Nice summit will be one of the toughest in the history of Europe," European Commissioner Michel Barnier of France predicted.

As one of their first items of business, the 15 EU leaders on Thursday adopted a nonbinding charter on the rights of all Europeans.

Journal Makes Genome Data Deal

Right to Publish Paper Traded for Control of Access

By Peter G. Gosselin

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The prestigious journal *Science* is on the verge of striking an unusual bargain: In return for the right to publish a path-breaking paper on the human genetic code, it would allow the paper's biotech company authors to make their supporting data accessible only to those who promise not to use them for commercial or certain other purposes.

To its critics, the agreement appears at odds with science's long-held view that the free exchange of ideas is the best route to discovery and the advancement of knowledge.

The critics also charge that the deal would amount to a deep new incursion of the profit motive into scientific enterprise. They say it would collide with *Science* magazine's own policy that results be publicly available for use, and also with public promises by the authors' company, Celera Genomics of Rockville, Md., to provide the material to the scientific community with no restrictions other than a ban on copying the data and reselling it.

"I believe that the editors of *Science* are about to make a major mistake that will ... seriously compromise a major field of scientific research," said Cambridge University biologist Michael Ashburner, who is spearheading an effort to persuade the magazine to reverse itself.

Officials with both *Science* and Celera scoffed at critics Wednesday and asserted that their agreement strikes a fine balance between researchers' need for access and the company's desire to protect its investment.

The firm generates and sells genetic information to drug companies, universities and others. It won extraordinary praise at a June White House event for having lighted a fire under the drive to decipher the human genetic code, and for having tied its public counterpart, the Human Genome Project, in the race for the code.

Celera has repeatedly said it would make its data available but also protect its investment, "and that's what we're doing," declared Paul Gilman, the company's director of public policy.

"This is important science and needs to get out there," said former Stanford University President Donald Kennedy, who assumed the editorship of *Science* earlier this year. "I don't see any problem."

Notably silent in the dispute Wednesday were leaders of the pub-

lic project, who said that the issue of publication and data access should be worked out between *Science*, Celera and the general scientific community. Project officials must decide soon when and where to submit their own scientific paper. *Science* and the British journal *Nature* are vying for it.

Kennedy acknowledged in an interview that *Science*'s decision to allow Celera to keep the data for the scientific paper it is submitting for publication on its own computer Web site, rather than depositing it on the publicly managed Genbank Web site, is not ideal and represents a change in the magazine's practice.

"There's a good argument that in the best of all possible worlds, all the data would be in one place," he said.

But Kennedy said that the benefit of a single repository for the genetic code is offset by Celera's willingness to make data public that it might otherwise provide only to paying subscribers.

However, many scientists viewed the trade-off quite differently.

"For two decades, the policy of requiring submission of sequence data to Genbank has been a tremendous success and has been critical for much of the progress we've seen in genomics," said David Lipman, director of the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Philippine President Goes on Trial

Estrada Could Be Impeached on Corruption Charges

By David Lamb

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Saying he had faith in God and his own innocence, a humbled President Joseph Estrada went on trial in the Philippine Senate on Thursday on charges of bribery and corruption. If found guilty, the former movie star, who has a stable of mistresses and a penchant for partying, would be stripped of the presidency.

The army was on alert, and streets around the waterfront Senate chamber were filled with thousands of the president's loyalists and critics. In a process expected to take weeks, 15 of the nation's 22 senators would have to establish a "balance of probability" of guilt to convict Estrada.

Regardless of the outcome, the stakes are high for the Philippines and its hard-won democracy. Among the key questions are:

Will the fate of Estrada, the first Asian head of state to face an impeachment trial, be decided in the courtroom or the streets? Will the senators vote on the credibility of evidence or the strength of personal loyalty? Will the army stay out of politics, or leave the barracks to determine the outcome?

"I had two messages when I talked with the army's senior enlisted men the other day," Defense Minister Orlando Mercado said. "One, don't allow yourselves to be used by the political opposition. Two, we in the government will not use you to stay in power. The president has been clear: He will not stay in office one minute if he is convicted."

Prosecutors began laying out the case against Estrada on Thursday by comparing him to the Philippines' late dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, who amassed an estimated \$2 billion and was ousted in a popular revolt in 1986.

"I wonder, who is the bigger crook?" said Rep. Joker Arroyo, one of 11 congressmen serving as prosecutors in the Senate trial. Arroyo said the handwriting on a \$3 million

check gave away Estrada's efforts to hide assets in a bank account under a false name.

For weeks, the Philippine press has been full of spicy stories about the president, a man with roguish charm who shunned the trappings of office. "Lover For All Seasons" read one headline on a story about Estrada's sexual exploits. There have been scandalous exposes about the president's all-night drinking and gambling sessions with old cronies.

But Estrada, 63, is not charged, directly at least, with moral dereliction or political incompetence.

In October, a former drinking buddy with a shady reputation, provincial governor Luis Singson, went public with a bombshell: Twice a month he had been delivering to Estrada at Malacanang Palace attache cases stuffed with pesos — more than \$10 million worth — from illegal gambling profits and skimmed tobacco excise taxes.

Estrada said Singson offered bribes but he refused them. Singson said he would have kept silent if Estrada had given him the gambling franchise he wanted.

Hamas Leader Reportedly Escapes From Palestinian Prison

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

A top leader of the militant Palestinian group Hamas, suspected of masterminding terrorist attacks that have killed dozens of Israelis, has escaped from a Palestinian jail in the Gaza Strip, according to Israeli press reports and a Hamas Web site.

Mohammed Deif, arrested in May by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's security forces, was said to have slipped out of prison last Friday with the help of some of his guards. According to the Hamas Web site, Arafat "was infuriated by the news and issued orders for Deif's arrest, dead or alive." It said the guards have been arrested.

A number of hard-line members of Hamas — or the Islamic Resistance Movement — and another militant Palestinian group, Islamic Jihad, have been released since the Palestinian uprising against Israel began 10 weeks ago. But reports were conflicting about the status of Deif, regarded in Israel as Public Enemy No. 1.

Word of his escape, which Israeli security officials charged must have been approved by Arafat or his top lieutenants, was interpreted here as a warning signal of possible terrorist attacks on Israeli targets.

"It's very dangerous," Ronni Shaked, an Israeli journalist who has written widely about militant Palestinian groups, told Israeli radio. "It's a very clear green light to Hamas, and for the other groups, to start and to continue their terrorist activity."

Mindful of Congested Skies, Clinton Orders New Branch of FAA

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Clinton issued an order Thursday giving the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control branch somewhat more independence within the FAA, the latest in a series of moves by Congress and the administration aimed at improving the nation's ability to cope with increasing congestion in the skies.

Clinton's order accomplished by executive fiat one of many aviation proposals by the administration that Congress has rejected.

Clinton also suggested that a new Congress take a closer look at such concepts as charging higher landing fees to airlines during congested periods, and eventually funding all air traffic services through fees rather than taxes. The administration has had little or no success selling such ideas on Capitol Hill.

One plan that Congress was reluctant to deal with was a 1997 Clinton proposal to fold all FAA air traffic control functions into a semiautonomous "performance-based organization," on the theory it could make faster decisions with less bureaucratic foot-dragging. That is the result of Thursday's executive order.

The action is intended to allow more efficient management of air traffic services at a time when airline delays and cancellations are mounting, and are expected to worsen over the next few years before the FAA and the airlines can modernize their air traffic systems and build more runways.

Senate OKs Bankruptcy Overhaul

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Senate Thursday passed by a veto-proof majority — 70 to 28 — a bill that would make it harder for consumers to wipe out debt through bankruptcy, but the legislation's future remains in doubt.

After the vote, President Clinton renewed his threat to veto the legislation, which is backed by the credit-card industry and was passed by the House in a voice vote in October. Whether it becomes law or dies, however, depends on whether Congress remains in session long enough to attempt a veto override, and, if it does, whether Democrats who backed the bill Thursday would decline to join Republicans in such an attempt.

The 70 "yes" votes, which included 53 Republicans and 17 Democrats, were three more than the 67 needed to override a veto.

The bill would create a complex formula for determining how much debt financially troubled consumers would be required to repay under a court-supervised bankruptcy plan and how much of their incomes they could retain each month. It would be harder to wipe out debts completely.

Consumer groups decried the Senate action, saying the bill remains too harsh on consumers who fall into financial difficulty because of illness, job loss or divorce.

Pandas Adjusting to New Home in National Zoo Before Public Display

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

When the door to the Panda House at the National Zoo was unlocked Thursday morning, the scene inside looked like the aftermath of a wild party. Scattered shreds of bamboo. A ball of dirt from a plant, ripped from its pot. Two animals, sleeping soundly.

Any worries about how Mei Xiang and Tian Tian were adjusting to their new home in Washington had vanished. Sometime between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., when people weren't watching them, the fun began.

"It was really great to see that," said Lisa Stevens, senior curator for mammals, who had flown back on the cargo plane from China on Wednesday with the two rare giant pandas. The animals are to go on public display next month after a quarantine period to ensure they are free of disease and are well-adjusted to their new home.

Mei Xiang ("may sh-ONG"), who is 2 1/2, and Tian Tian ("t-YEN, t-YEN"), who is 3 1/2, came from the Wolong Reserve in China's mountainous Sichuan Province, where they were born. The zoo is borrowing them from China for 10 years at a cost of \$1 million a year, mostly raised from corporate donors. The funds are intended to go to projects to help save the endangered wild panda population.

Zoo staffers who traveled on the Federal Express plane with the two animals said they appeared to weather the flight well. They were eating bamboo together soon after they were trucked from Dulles International Airport to the zoo. And they ate every bit of the more than 40 pounds of bamboo left for them overnight and kept going.

OPINION



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Letters To The Editor

Beating Around The Bush

I was disappointed and saddened to see Akshay Patil '04 argue that, in the not-too-distant future, we will no longer care about this presidential election. The fact that a failed businessman who grins while talking about executing people was "elected" president has left me disappointed in my country. However, if we were ever to forget the shady circumstances under which this all occurred, I would be downright ashamed.

This election was not just a footnote in history; it was full-blown proof of the extent to which money and corruption have destroyed our electoral process, and the self-delusion and apathy Americans will resort to in order to keep from having to admit that anything is wrong.

Let's recap: Gore won the popular vote; more citizens of the United States want Gore to be president. Bush, the son of a former president, declares himself president. His "win" rests on disputed votes from a state run by his brother — a state in which tens of thousands of invalid absentee ballots, which traditionally swing towards the self-declared winner's party, are "corrected" so as to make them valid. The electoral votes for that state are handed over to the self-declared president by a political appointee of his brother. I think the most telling part of this

whole story, however, is the very end, when the self-declared winner's party resorts to threats of violence and intimidation to keep a neutral electoral board from going forward with its duties. Welcome to democracy under George W. Bush.

Susan M. Buchman '01

Profits Drive AIDS Research

I'd like to take a minute to respond to the recent protests of Pfizer covered in this paper. First off, let me make it clear that I support all actions on the part of the U.S. government or private citizens to purchase supplies of AIDS-relieving drugs and distribute them in Africa and to people around the world who can't afford AIDS treatment — up to and including a Federal tax for the purpose. (Anyone with information about private groups soliciting donations for this purpose should spread the word on campus. I'll definitely pitch in.)

That said, it seems to me that asking Pfizer to give up its patent is a dangerous game. Pfizer is a business. All of their decisions are predicated on the question: "What will make money for our shareholders?" They dumped tremendous amounts of investors' money into the research program that developed fluconazole. And if they don't have a patent on it, all that money is a loss.

Now, if that was the end of the story, I could care less. But it seems to me that if Pfizer gives up their patent on fluconazole, it will send a message to all drug companies and investors that AIDS research is not profitable. If it is not profitable, it will stop. AIDS research will become the exclusive province of government-funded agencies, while the big drug companies search for a nice, profitable cure for baldness. And the cure for AIDS will become less likely.

Does Pfizer spend lots of money on

advertising? Sure. Are they selfish? Yes. Should we punish them for this? As unfair as it is, that might be a real bad idea.

Ben Janesko G

Doing Better on Suicide Prevention

As a suicide prevention hotline worker, I'd like to put in my two cents about the recent suicides here and at Harvard. Each time I read *The Tech* for information, and each time it was reported that the student was "doing much better" by friends and associates. This makes me think that there was at least an inkling that problems had been evident before the suicide — clearly, each individual was *not* doing much better, so why didn't anybody know?

Perhaps they're not saying; suicide has a terrible stigma in Western society. For me, though, it demonstrates that the local support services are not sufficient. It is possible that intervention by health services and caring friends has made a difference that we will never read about; from *The Tech's* articles, however, one gets the impression that ours is a culture which does not encourage students or the health institutions to support a suicidal individual for more than just an evening, or a week.

We on the hotline are taught that the most dangerous period for suicide is *after* the debilitating depression, or when the individual is feeling "better," as the severely depressed usually don't have the focus or energy to devise a suicide plan and see it through. Winter and the holidays do not boast the highest suicide rate; it is spring, when the weather starts to warm, the ice begins to break, and life begins anew.

Perhaps MIT should study how to better support the mental health issues of its students (and faculty, and staff), because suicide and depression can strike not just the freshman class, and not just during finals.

The author, who has requested anonymity, works on a suicide prevention hotline and is a member of the Samaritans of Boston (536-2460).

Erratum

In a review of Dance Troupe in the last issue ["Storm," Dec. 5], Sarah F. Funderburk '04 was incorrectly credited for choreographing "Scream." The dance number was actually choreographed by Judianne B. Ramiscal '04.

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The Real Story Behind the Numbers

Veena Thomas

Few things are more tragic than a college undergraduate who views life as so meaningless, so unbearable, that killing himself is his only escape. Suicide is a desperate action, and each person who commits suicide has very personal reasons for doing so. Why, then, do some people attempt to use suicides as data points to suit their own purposes?

Take, for instance, Will Hafer's article entitled "Heading in the Wrong Direction" in the December 2000 issue of *Counterpoint*. It states that "in the fourteen academic terms from fall 1990 until Krueger's death in the fall of 1997, five suicides occurred at MIT. The next five academic terms saw seven suicides." Clearly there has been a rash of suicides in the past few years.

However, the article errs in providing no concrete evidence specifically linking the increased suicide rate to the change in MIT culture and policy following Scott Krueger's death in 1997.

The article states, "The administration's error was one of unintended consequences. In cracking down on the presence of alcohol at fraternity parties, all they wanted to do was keep [people from] harm. [The student body] needed to get drunk and party. It helped us face the next week... Today students face week after week of mental strain, with little in between to lighten the load. This is having a destructive effect on many students' mental conditions."

With the dizzying array of extracurricular activities and friends available in both dorms and FSILGs, surely stressed-out students can find escapes besides drinking. Alcohol might help temporarily obliterate problems, but the problems persist long after the alcohol has left the bloodstream.

The *Counterpoint* quote implies that fewer students would have killed themselves had administrators not changed the alcohol policy. Such a broad statement shows blatant disregard for the actual people cited. These are real people who have committed suicide, for valid and personal reasons. They are not merely experimental data points which follow a trend. Each one of the individuals who took his or her own life had reasons that certainly would have persisted whether or not drinking were more prevalent on campus.

To treat those people as statistical evidence

against the alcohol policy changes shows no respect for their lives. Interestingly, Hafer almost appears to understand that real people's lives are at stake. He states, "In a breathtakingly mindless misapplication of statistics to reality, Sloan professor Arnold Barnett tried to write these events off as mere random data fluctuations. But suicides are not random. They have causes, and if a lot of students commit suicide, even over the space of a single term, it means somebody is making some very big mistakes."

Hafer is exactly right — suicides have causes. However, he presumptuously assumes that the suicides were due to the policy changes, and provides no concrete evidence to support himself. Suicides always have causes. They can result from the death of a loved one, clinical depression, the end of a relationship, or lack of parental support, none of which are linked at all to an individual overly stressed by schoolwork and finding no release through partying and alcohol. Hafer can't assume he knows the reason why students commit suicide; he does not.

People do commit suicide for reasons other than schoolwork. It is very easy, too easy in fact, for the student body, the media, and others to hear about a suicide at MIT and to automatically assume it stemmed from school-related pressures. Nothing could be further from the truth. Each MIT student has a life outside of their schoolwork, with friends, family, and loved ones. Anything could happen in any one of those areas which might trigger someone to view suicide as the only option. Coursework alone should not be fingered as the only factor in any MIT suicide.

Hafer uses statistics blindly in order to prove his thesis, which is that MIT students have few avenues to release their stress as a result in the alcohol policy changes following Scott Krueger, and that because of this, we have seen an increase in the suicide rate since the fall of 1997. Consider the following statement made in the article: "Life at MIT really is a bleak experience these days. Is it all that surprising that we had three suicides in the last term?" It is true that we had three suicides among the MIT community in the spring of 2000. However, the article attempts to link suicide to the "bleak experience" of MIT. Yet consider that of the three, only Elizabeth Shin '02 was a student at MIT at the time of her death. Christopher Millard '96, described as "a former MIT student" who had been work-

ing in Boston, graduated almost four years before he died in March 2000. Seth Karon '01 committed suicide in February at home, where he had been on a leave of absence since August.

In short, Hafer provides no specific evidence to link any particular suicide to the policy changes. Instead, he relies on circumstantial evidence to support his thesis. One could pick many arbitrary points in time, such as the matriculation of the class of 2001 or the renovations of Baker, and find that the suicide rate increased afterwards. This fallacious argument in no way concretely links suicide at MIT to either one of these events.

This article is not the only instance of using suicide statistics to advance a cause. In the same issue of *Counterpoint*, Matt Norwood references a *Technology Review* story on MIT suicides in his article "The Ministry of Truth." His article once again attempts to link an increased suicide rate to a change in MIT policy and culture following Scott Krueger's death. States Norwood, "The [*Technology Review*] article cites disruption of living groups and support networks — specifically, the placement of RAs in FSILGs — as a possible reason for this rise." A complete reading of the article in question ["Walking the Haunted Campus," November/December issue] fails to corroborate this statement. Nowhere does the article mention anything specifically about RAs in FSILGs increasing the suicide rate as Norwood claims it does. Once again, we have an example of someone interpreting what he will from suicides and using them as a way of advancing his own causes.

These are only two examples. People may attempt to use suicide data to prove many other of their pet causes, ranging from decreasing courseload difficulty to increasing support for homosexual students. However, in the midst of all this, let's not forget one thing — these are real students who feel compelled to take their own lives for real reasons, not merely points of experimental data used to describe a trend.

We need to work together as a community to try and decrease the suicide rate by providing a meaningful system of support, not just by baring high windows. The establishment of a student/staff mental health task force represents a step in the right direction. We need to continue this trend to ensure that suicides, for whatever reason, decrease. Please respect those individuals who have died thus far, and refrain from using their tragic deaths to suit your pet causes.

Still the One

Eric J. Plosky

To countries making fun of the American electoral system, I say: you should be so lucky.

Sure, Bush and Gore are both still standing in a ballot blizzard in Florida, chads flying every which way in the breathy wind of judges and justices. But compared to the way it could have been, this is a cakewalk. Here in enlightened America, we at least have courts and duly authorized officials figuring out who's going to lead the nation. Other countries may joke about sending election monitors our way, but theirs is the humor of desperation. For proof, let's take a look at some election-related news from around the world.

Just this week, CNN reported that "at least seven people were killed in shootings and other violence at or near polling stations Tuesday during South Africa's municipal elections, the second since the end of apartheid." Worse is Ivory Coast, where at least 22 people died this week during what Reuters called "pre-election political and ethnic violence." A former prime minister was excluded from the poll by Ivory Coast's supreme court; as a result, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called off UN electoral assistance, police fired tear gas at protesters, and residents were placed under curfew.

Sounds a little bit like what happened only a couple of months ago in Yugoslavia — remember that it took streets filled with Belgraders to persuade the reviled Slobodan Milosevic that maybe he really did lose that country's presidential election after all. However gingerly Bill Clinton will have to leave Washington, at least he won't literally have to run for his life.

Ultranationalism may be a problem in America when bigots like Pat Buchanan can run for president, but he finished with less than one percent of the vote. In Romania, candidate Corneliu Vadim Tudor got 28 percent of the vote in a Nov. 26 presidential primary; he's now the number-two man in the race, despite what the *Boston Globe* on Wednesday called his "history of vituperative attacks on enemies real and perceived — Jews, Hungarians, Gypsies, political rivals." (Sort of hard to root for Tudor's opponent, though, seeing as how he's an old-style Communist dictator.) Far-right candidates said to have Nazi sympathies recently took charge of the Austrian gov-

ernment, prompting other countries in Europe to take the unprecedented and unambiguous step of cutting diplomatic relations. And let's not even begin analyzing Russia's KGB chief-turned-president, who wants to dust off the Soviet flag and national anthem.

Government machinations? In Tanzania, widespread corruption is so openly acknowledged — opposition politicians are routinely arrested — that the new president has had to form an investigative commission. Most politicians in Sudan aren't even bothering to run in their country's questionable election, to be held next month. Things aren't much better in Haiti, where President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was "elected" by American troops in 1994 (a little military adventure called "Operation Uphold Democracy"), recently rigged his own re-election, winning some 92% of the vote (the second-place finisher garnered a mere 2%).

Even some of our closest allies aren't above a little electoral meddling. In Taiwan, the long-ruling Kuomintang party, upset at losing big in March elections, has tried every which way to throw wrenches at "embattled" President Chen Shui-bian. Still, although Chen is under attack at home and by a billion Chinese mainlanders, he's faring better than Japan's prime minister, Yoshiro Mori, who survived a no-confidence vote orchestrated against him last month only after an embarrassing combination of pleading and political string-pulling. In Israel, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, having failed to keep peace with the Palestinians and within his own government, has been forced to call early elections as his ruling coalition collapses; Temple Mount-visiting right-winger Ariel Sharon, who obviously keeps peace pretty low on his agenda, is delighted. And Canada, of all countries, also recently called early elections — a ploy by wily Prime Minister Jean Chretien to get re-elected before the opposition got too strong.

Let's see; we're up to coups, impeachments, and resignations. In Pakistan, it's been over a year since Gen. Pervez Musharraf and company booted duly elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and sent him packing for prison; new elections are nowhere on the horizon. (Don't forget that Boston TV reporter Andy Hiller quizzed our own George W. Bush on this guy's name; Bush answered, "General.") The Philippines is at this moment enjoying the spectacle of its apparently fast-and-loose presi-

dent, Joseph Estrada, being paraded in front of the Philippine Senate in an impeachment trial that makes Clinton's look like a lovefest. Peru's Alberto Fujimori would have faced similar music if he hadn't faxed — faxed — his resignation from a Tokyo hotel room.

Free and fair elections are still just myths (if not banned concepts) in many countries around the world, and even sometimes when they're rumored to take place, it's hard to prove. Despite the election of reformist Muhammad Khatami in Iran, fundamentalist clerics still pretty much rule there, as in Afghanistan, whose hard-liners are notorious for their uncompromising and often lethal conservatism. Zimbabwe's leader, Robert Mugabe, may have been elected but is now running amok even as his party and his country's economy plunge into chaos, ignoring a Supreme Court that has ruled his radical land-redistribution "plan," which has produced nationwide violence, illegal. (Not to mention that last month's Zimbabwean elections were characterized by the usual beatings and shootings.)

All this, all throughout the globe. And we Americans have the effrontery to express disgust at our own courtroom wranglings. Please. Let them wrangle.

Actually, only one nation has stood alone in recent months for conducting a reasonably efficient and honorable election. That is Mexico, where voters in July elected opposition candidate Vicente Fox, who was inaugurated last Friday. Fox's election ended 71 years of rule under the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which had kept power through all the usual means — trickery, fraud, intimidation, even assassinations. Only because the PRI's last president, Ernesto Zedillo, was intent on reforming the "adjectives" — dictatorial, artificial, useless — out of Mexican democracy did politics there begin to change. The country still has some way to go (campaign violence was still not uncommon), but great strides have been made — Fox, for instance, benefited greatly from (gasp!) public campaign financing.

On July 4, after Fox's election, the *New York Times* said of Zedillo: "His policies amounted to an ultimatum. No longer was it the domineering PRI elite's job to spread the spoils. The president wanted the party to work for its votes." We in the United States may be able to learn from that. And the rest of the world — well, the rest of the world has a lot more to learn.

Moments in The Mirror

Ken Nesmith

We all experience moments of clairvoyance amidst clouds of confusion, when the incessant buzz of daily life that numbs our minds clears for a moment and we're left with striking insight. These are moments to be cherished, when we can feel just a small part of our humanity manifest in some fraction of our day; we are elevated to a higher level of understanding, even if only briefly.

That's not to say these revelations are always pleasant. They can bring doubt about our entire lives, about why we are where we are, doing what we're doing, feeling the way we're feeling. Why, we ask, do we really need to live at all; what is there to live for? In these moments of stinging isolation, legitimate feelings of desertion and despair can flow freely over us, and they have power that lies, to some degree, in their truth. Hopefully, in these moments, the doubter gives life another chance, making a bet that the future might hold potential for a life that is somehow more fulfilling and worthwhile than the painful and empty one before them now.

College students especially seem to have problems with this sort of depression. In the course of observing all the seemingly superfluous depression-related presentations, pamphlets, and other warnings passed on to college freshmen — material which feels very superficial, with its endless lists of advice and help numbers — one can easily get the impression that college causes this depression; that the pressures and challenges students face can simply push some to despair.

This is often not the case. Instead of causing or creating depression, college life can instead reveal the depression that each of us faces but carefully hides. It reveals certain dependencies that each of us has, on family, friends, hometown, or whatever. College life has the potential to remove those things we depend upon with unnerving speed and precision. Some people, as they enter college, move quickly to fill the holes left by the shift to this new life, trying to blind themselves to the brief pain. When we make that willful effort to hide from ourselves, those moments of clairvoyance become few and far between, yet somehow even more frightening.

Ultimately, we are hiding from ourselves. And when, for a moment, we are jarred from our safe emotional havens and forced to face ourselves, that is when we face the true test of human existence.

We stare at ourselves in a metaphysical mirror, and our reflection, our inner self, stares icily back, and questions us with a disturbingly composed coldness. Holding us there in its disinterested spell, it asks us just what it is we're going to do.

Truly, this is a powerful test of our resolve, and it is one to which we are the sole witness. It can be a hobbling and sometimes deadly confrontation, if we genuinely feel that there's no reason to keep fighting.

Sometimes, though, we can find in this test a new strength and determination, powerful but tortuously painful, that lies not in ephemeral desires to impress those around us or achieve some passing success, but rather in a need to prove ourselves to that doubting being inside us. There is no greater inspiration than that which drives us to beat ourselves, and to defend our existence. Finding this source, we can become less dependent on the fickle approval and disapproval of the world around us. Instead, our will faces only the tests posed by ourselves, and our successes, when we achieve them, are ever sweeter.

However, serious failure becomes much more difficult to write off, because now we have not just failed those around us, we have failed ourselves. Now that man in the mirror stares at us once more; his face drops just a little bit in quiet disappointment before twisting again into a scowl of disgust at our inadequate efforts. The icy hand of defeat slaps us off our path, and laying there, stunned, we are forced to one more time start anew and demand of ourselves even more strength and courage — and in the back of our minds, as we chuckle in despair at the absurdity of all this, we can't help but wonder what will happen to us when we arrive here again.

Why, then, do I feel that we should cherish these torturous moments, when we push ourselves to the anguished brink of self-destruction? Because I value truth. Even in its frightening power, if we can face it, accept it, and grapple with it as we live with the hope of someday finding some peace with it, I think we have made life worth living.

Kicking the TV Habit

Philip Burrowes

I used to be a television junkie of sorts. At first I just watched copious amounts of television because I could. Later limitations on the amount of television I could view paradoxically made me a television maven. The scheduling procedures I devised involved more fact-finding and prediction than any non-term paper assignment I had in high school, labs included. Yet now, under no external regulation, a relatively unchanged (if not smaller) courseload, and with many former extracurricular pursuits now behind me, my weekly viewing hours have dipped into the single digits. As one might imagine, this is not very pleasing. What could have brought about this decrease, and more importantly, is it part of a trend?

The first reason which comes to mind is probably the impetus to go out and meet new people, especially in a place with such an interesting mix of personalities. It is true I have been online more often, but my computer is equipped with an external tuner so that I need not venture too far from my list of buddies. Even if I did want to venture from my dorm room, the television lounge is right outside. Pritchett too has television facilities (if slightly diminished) should pangs of hunger pry me from Piled Higher and Deeper.

No, the problem is with television itself. I have become increasingly disillusioned with the medium since last year. Not since *Muppet Babies* was joined by *Garfield* and *Friends* in its Saturday morning lineup had I been so excited with the prospects of the new season. Then one by one my favorite shows were canceled. Through it all, a quiz show and a remake of *Gilligan's Island* (only devoid of the cultural metaphors) were cleaning up. To this day I refuse to watch *Millionaire* unless Tyra Banks is on.

I felt like I could no longer trust the clandestine proportion of Americans participating in Nielsen ratings, nor the myopic corporate capitalists making the programming decisions. These were the same people that didn't find *Clerks* more appealing than reruns of *JAG*, and who aired the episodes out of order, respectively. The only joy I get out of television now is from deriding shows that inexplicably passed muster, most of them syndicated. Those and my stories, anyway.

Compounding the problem of my sheer dearth of respect for the television industry is the growing portability of video games. The redesigned Playstation (PS1), for example, is not much bigger than my tuner, making it as accessible as television. Personally, I'm still partial to the Game Boy, if only because I've had it for so long. The viewing experience is easily a substitute for television, and I get to entertain myself without engaging in any social context, unless I want to PokeBattle. Nintendo's upcoming Gamecube system, with its both aesthetic and functional pettiness, is looking all the more alluring without the distraction of good programs

on the air (not to mention its designed compatibility with the next Game Boy system).

So I can't say that this shift in my viewing habits has been totally unfortunate. For one thing, I've largely been spared attachment to doomed shows. I've also theoretically gained hours of free time each week, but they have been disappearing somewhere. More importantly, I'm slowly easing my way further and further from pop culture. I don't even see Nielsen ratings anymore to know what's popular. If I forget about television altogether, I can concentrate on more intellectual pursuits, like *Link's Awakening DX* and the timeless *Tetris*. Still, nostalgia for the heyday of Michigan J. Frog creeps into my thoughts every now and again. Many have empathized with me in saying that my situation is quite sad.

I've theoretically gained hours of free time each week, but they have been disappearing somewhere. Now I can concentrate on more intellectual pursuits, like Link's Awakening DX and the timeless Tetris.

The Sexy Asian Male In the Media

Kevin Choi

We've come a long way since the days Mickey Rooney portrayed the character Mr. Yunioshi in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" as a bucktooth, sexless, Japanese neighbor with a broken and incomprehensible accent. Equally insulting was when the only Asian men you'd see on screen in the 80s were the geeky and nerdy variety, as in the Asian computer science "nerds" in the "Revenge of the Nerds" series.

In the past decade however, the American public, in part due to Hollywood slowly but gradually giving Asian actors more leading roles, has seen the transformation, or rather, the reality of the Asian male archetype. Asian men are just as masculine and sexually appealing as the Humphrey Bogart types in the world. In truth, we are not as sexless and nerdy as Hollywood or the media would like us to believe.

Over the weekend, I attended MIT Dance Troupe's fall concert, "Storm." The wonderful performances and artistry of all the dancers aside, I was very excited to see the Asian male dancers portrayed in an exciting and new light. No longer are we nerdy. We are hot, masculine, and desirable. We know urban dance moves as well as any other racial group, and we can surely breakdance like there's no tomorrow.

In a *Newsweek* article published earlier this year, the writer suggested that there was a growing trend in interracial dating between Asian men and non-Asian women and that this was in part due to how the media is now portraying the Asian male. "The media [is] redefining their image of Asian-American men, a group previously labeled as weak, sexless and unable to offer the status and security that white men could," the writer asserted, also pointing out that Asian-American men are marrying outside their ethnic group at a far faster rate than before.

Walk around MIT and you will notice that this trend is indeed true. In fact, you most likely have Asian male friends who are dating outside of their ethnic group. While we can certainly attribute this trend to children grow-

ing up more color-blind and tolerant than ever, we also owe our thanks to the media for giving a more accurate and realistic portrayal of the Asian male.

In November's *People Magazine*'s "Sexiest Man Alive 2000" issue, among the seventeen men who were profiled, it was nice to see an Asian actor selected to make the list. The actor selected, Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, was named as Sexiest Newcomer. Interestingly though, he has made more than fifty movies, so "newcomer" is probably a stretch. But at least *People* is trying.

When the new film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* arrives in theaters this Christmas, be prepared for star Chow Yun-Fat to take the much-deserved center stage. There are already rumors floating that he could be up for an Academy Award next year for his portrayal of an honorable martial-arts warrior on a quest to reclaim his stolen weapon, a beautiful jade sword, and to declare his life-long love for a female warrior who matches him in strength and courage. The movie will be the first American mainstream martial-arts movie to feature an all-Asian cast, including two strong male leads with their two equally strong female counterparts.

Of course, even though we are seeing improvement in the portrayal of Asian men, there are glaring exceptions. Many Asian-Americans recently stood up *en masse* to protest "Mr. Wong," a Flash-animated show featured on Icebox.com. The character in question, Mr. Wong, is drawn up as a yellow-skinned, squinty-eyed bucktooth servant to a rich white boss named "Miss Pam." To many, the show is downright racist and may help reinforce some children's stereotypes about Asian men as being unattractive and submissive.

We have come a long way since the days of Mr. Yunioshi and Charlie Chan, another sexless Asian character portrayed by a white actor in the 1930s and 40s. But as the "Mr. Wong" example shows, we still have another mile to go before we can see realistic portrayals of Asian men and women across all media. To the media's credit, they are slowly getting it. We are now portrayed as sexy, sexual, and masculine, and you bet we are.

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ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

The following movies are playing this weekend at local theaters. The Tech suggests using <<http://www.boston.com>> for a complete listing of times and locations.

★★★★ Excellent
★★★ Good
★★ Fair
★ Poor

102 Dalmations (★★★)

Cruella De Vil is released after three years in prison, and now she's on yet another villainous quest. This time, she's set her eyes on the "ultimate" fur coat, which requires 102 dalmatians. Watch Cruella and her group of bumbling henchmen manipulate flirtatious kennel-owner, Kevin, and his love-interest, Cloe, to humorous ends. — Devdoot Majumdar

Adventures in Wild California (★★★)

The theme of this movie, California's wild nature, is the direct inspiration for the spirit of adventure, exploration, and innovation — but it is the glorious visuals (sky surfing and regular surfing, snowboarding, helicopter flights) that provide real excitement. — Vladimir Zelevinsky

Best in Show (★★)

The latest release by mockumentary filmmaker Christopher Guest spoofs the peculiar American phenomenon of the dog show, and focuses on nine would-be blue-ribbon winners, each more absurd than the last. The most unforgivable error Guest makes is in the film's marketing. *Best In Show* is guilty of one of the most onerous offenses of bad action flicks: it gives away its best scenes during the film's trailer. What's left after the jokes that everyone's already seen is a series of unrelated and mostly offensive stereotypical scenes, the theatrical equivalent of calling people names. It is too bad that Guest, given his considerable résumé and a great setup for a film, can't grow up enough to intelligently poke fun at a decidedly deserving subject. — Jed Horne

Billy Elliot (★★★)

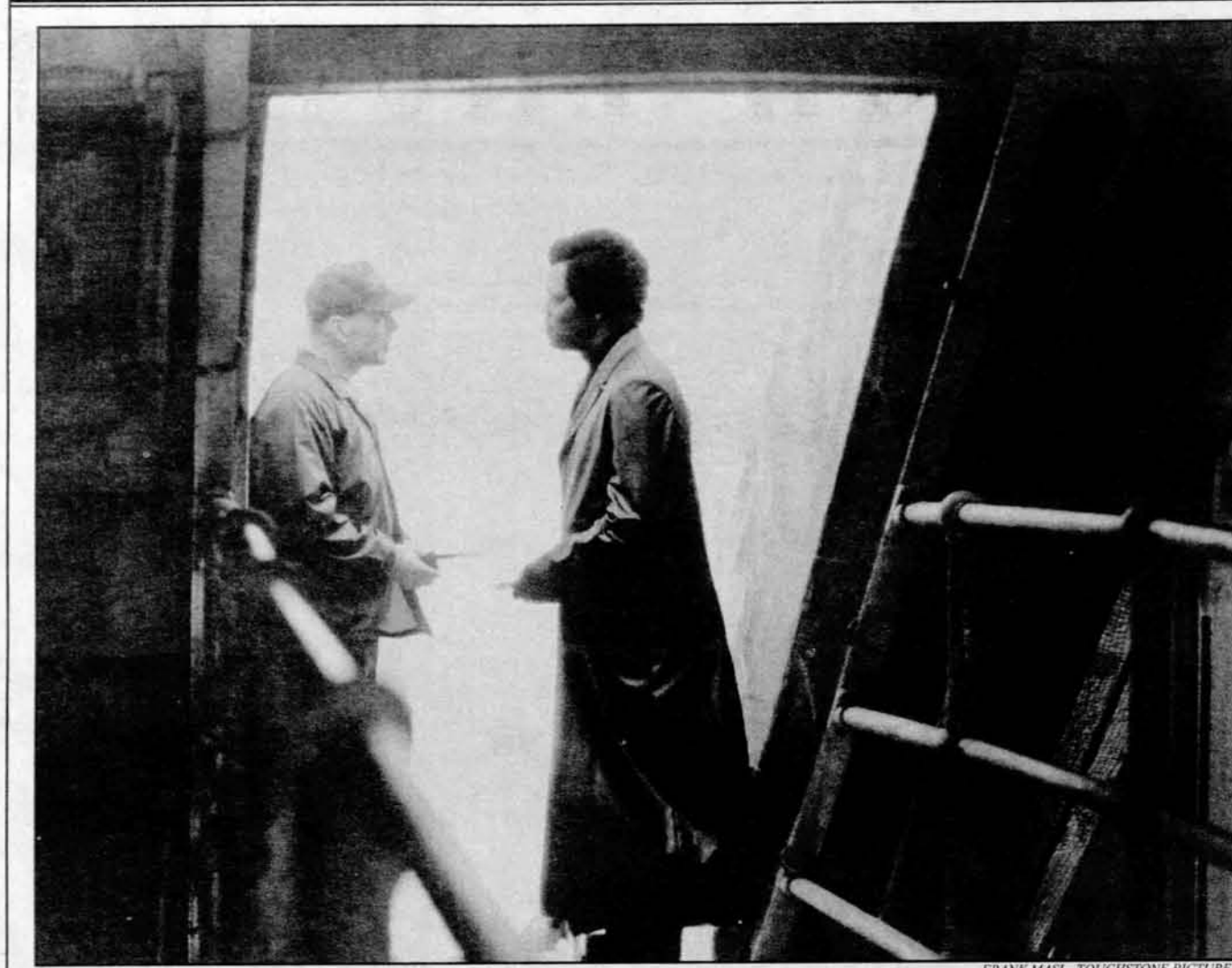
A sweet, spirited, and enjoyable (albeit sometimes clumsily rendered) movie experience. A young British boy, hypnotized by dancing, begins studying ballet, much to the chagrin of his lower-class father. The seemingly obligatory political backdrop is awkward and unnecessary, but overall, it's a heart-warming and amusing piece of light fare that recovers well from any of its missteps. Warning: thick British accents. — Karen Feigenbaum

Charlie's Angels (★★★)

This mixture of James Bond, *Mission: Impossible*, *The Matrix*, and *Drunken Master* is so much fun that it can't help but be infectious. The screenplay suffers from familiarity, and the final sequence is a letdown, but most of the movie is preposterously entertaining. Crispin Glover as a wordless assassin is a comic highlight. — VZ

Dancer in the Dark (★★★)

Björk, Catherine Deneuve, and director/writer Lars von Trier team up in this ambitious musical. A heavy and tragic plot collides with campy musical numbers to form a film that is better off as a drama than a musical. Björk and Deneuve's perfor-



Bruce Willis (left) stars as David Dunn, the sole survivor of a catastrophic train wreck in *Unbreakable*. Samuel L. Jackson stars as Elijah Price, an eccentric stranger who is fascinated by Dunn's unexplainable survival and is convinced that this ordinary man somehow possesses an extraordinary gift.

mances are stellar, but the rest of the cast needs intense dance and vocal training in order to make a more convincing musical. The film's music has traces of Björk's unique electronic style, but still feels held back and pulled in different directions. Bring tissues. — Annie Choi

The Legend of Bagger Vance (★)

A tiresome tale about golfer Randolph Junuh (Matt Damon), who lost his "swing," and the mysterious caddy (Will Smith) who helps out by offering philosophical golf advice. Though Damon and Smith give excellent performances, the lack of character development and corny golf spirituality ruins this film. — DM

Little Nicky (★★½)

Yet another uninspiring film in Adam Sandler's film career. Countless cameos from movie stars and SNL would-have-beens divert the attention from Sandler, who is never given the chance to really shine. Though there are some funny scenes, this film falls short on delivering belly laughs. — Erik Blankinship

Meet the Parents (★★★)

From the director of *Austin Powers* comes this offbeat and original romantic comedy about hapless Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) and his attempts to impress his future father-in-law

(Robert DeNiro). Pam's (Teri Polo) father, Jack Byrnes, instantly decides that he's unimpressed by his daughter's husband-to-be and what follows is a disastrous family weekend during which things just keep getting worse. With laugh-out-loud humor and an endless array of gut-busting scenes, this film proves to be Stiller's greatest success since *There's Something about Mary*. — Ryan Klimczak

Pay it Forward (★★★½)

With an outstanding and talented cast of actors, *Pay it Forward* proves to be one of this year's most emotionally evocative movies. Social studies teacher Eugene Simonet (Kevin Spacey) creates an assignment of impossible standards: "Think of an idea to change the world — and put it into action." The persistent and imaginative Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osment) constructs an ambitious plan known as pay it forward, whereby one act of kindness is reciprocated by three new acts of kindness, and so on. Inspiring, original, and thought-provoking, this film takes us on a spiritual journey on the nature of humanity. — RK

Red Planet (★)

A tiresomely repetitive compendium of some of the most excruciatingly boring sequences ever committed to celluloid, this movie strands five people on Mars to slowly

kill them off one by one, using such devices as solar flares and a berserk robot that knows kung-fu. The audience is also in mortal danger — of being bored to death. — VZ

Requiem For a Dream (★★½)

Requiem For a Dream, directed and co-written by Darren Aronofsky (the writer/director of *Pi*), employs an intense visual style to describe the personal hells of four drug-addicted characters and their interconnected spirals into madness and depravity. Aronofsky has overstepped his ability as a filmmaker in his sophomore effort, and for all the flashy pyrotechnics, *Requiem* falls flat on an unfocused plot and mediocre acting. Viscerally, however, *Requiem* is as satisfying, if not more so, than *Pi*. If you liked *Pi*, *Requiem* is a must-see. If you didn't, don't bother. — JH

Unbreakable (★★★)

M. Night Shyamalan's follow-up to *The Sixth Sense* is, despite the presence of Bruce Willis in the lead and similar visual sensibility, a rather different movie: a largely unpredictable genre yarn, which, fortunately, never takes itself too seriously (a couple of very intense sequences excepted). Bruce Willis is used more as a screen presence than a real actor, but Samuel L. Jackson is electrifying. — VZ

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One Day Only!

Menorahs, Dreidels, Jewelry,
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JUDAICA SALE

Tuesday, December 12
11:00 am — 4:00 pm
Lobby 10

Cash and checks only, please.
Proceeds benefit MIT Hillel programming.

Clubs

Axis

13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437

Sundays: See Avalon below.
Mondays: *Static*. Gay, casual dress. \$5, 18+.
Thursdays: *Chrome/Skybar*. Progressive house, soul, disco; dress code. \$10, 19+; \$8, 21+.
Fridays: *Spin Cycle*. Progressive house, 80's. \$12, 19+; \$10, 21+.

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424

Sundays: *Gay Night* (with Axis on long weekends). Featuring hardcore house and techno. \$10, 21+.
Thursdays: *International Night*. Euro-house. \$10, 19+.
Fridays: *Avaland*. House. \$15, 19+.
Saturdays: *Downtown*. Modern house, club classics, and Top 40 hits. \$15, 21+.

Karma Club

9 Lansdowne St., 617-421-9595

Sundays: "Current dance favorites" by guest DJs. Cover varies.
Tuesdays: *Phatt Tuesdays*. With Bill's bar, modern dance music. \$10.
Wednesdays: *STP*. Gay-friendly, house. \$15, 21+.
Thursdays: *Groove Factor*. House.
Fridays: *Pure*. Drum and bass, guest DJ. \$15, 19+.
Saturdays: *Elements of Life*. International House. \$15.

ManRay

21 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-864-0400

Wednesdays: *Curses*. Goth. Appropriate dress required. \$5, 19+; \$3, 21+.
Thursdays: *Campus*. Popular tunes + House. Gay, casual dress. \$10, 19+; \$7, 21+.
Fridays: *Fantasy Factory* (First and third Friday of the month. Features kinky fetishes and industrial music.) *Hell Night* (every second Friday. 19+. Includes Goth music.) *Ooze* (the last Friday of the month.) \$10, 21+. reduced prices for those wearing fetish gear.
Saturdays: *Liquid*. Disco/house + New Wave. \$15, 19+; \$10, 21+.

Popular Music

Axis13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437
Next: 423-NEXT

Dec. 7-10: The Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424

Dec. 13: KISS 108FM Jingle Ball with 98 Degrees, Vertical Horizon, Nine Days, Jon Secada, Evan and Jaron, Samatha Mumba and special guest host Lenny Kravitz. Tickets must be won on KISS 108 or <kissfm.amfm.com>.
Dec. 27: Rustic Overtones.

Berklee Performance Center

Berklee College of Music
1140 Boylston St.
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. some weekdays. For info, on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 747-8820.

Dec. 9: Jane Oliver: "An Evening of Christmas & Romance".
Dec. 10: Klezmer Conservatory Band (orig. scheduled for Oct. 28.)
Feb. 24: Dave Brubeck.

Club Passim

47 Palmer St, Cambridge, 617-492-7679

Tuesdays: Open Mic at 8 p.m. (sign up at 7:30). \$5.
Dec. 8-9: Kris Delmhorst.
Dec. 10: Connie Kaldor.
Dec. 14: Alastair Mook.
Dec. 15: Jess Klein.
Dec. 17: Lorraine & Bennett Hammond.
Dec. 18: Arabesque Holiday Concert.
Dec. 19: Aengus - Annual Celtic Christmas and Winter Solstice celebration featuring Robbie O'Connell.
Jan. 18: Michael McDermott.

The Middle East

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Ticket prices vary. Call 354-8238 for more info.

Dec. 7: Mr. Lif.
Dec. 8: Groove Collective.
Dec. 8: Hybrasil.
Dec. 9: Buffalo Tom.
Dec. 9: Star Ghost Dog.
Dec. 13: Victor Wooten, bassist from Bela Fleck and the Flecktones.
Dec. 15: Akrobatik.
Dec. 31: Babaloo.

Orpheum Theatre1 Hamilton Pl., Boston, 617-679-0810
Ticketmaster: 931-2000

Dec. 16: Joe Jackson.
Dec. 21: Trans Siberian Orchestra.

Sanders Theatre

45 Quincy St., 02138, 617-496-2222

Jan. 27: Kate Clinton.
Jan. 28: Zimmerman's Coffeehouse.
Feb. 3: Christine Lavin & Cheryl Wheeler.
Mar. 23: John Gorka.

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston

December 8 - 15

Compiled by Fred Choi

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.



NORMAN JEAN ROY—UNIVERSAL RECORDS

Don't miss the magic of 98 Degrees (from left, Nick Lachey, Justin Jeffre, Jeff Timmons, and Drew Lachey) next Friday at the KISS 108FM Jingle Ball at the Avalon. Also performing are Vertical Horizon, Nine Days, Jon Secada, Evan and Jaron, and Samantha Mumba. With special guest host Lenny Kravitz. Tickets must be won through KISS 108FM.

T.T. the Bear's Place
10 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-492-BEAR

Dec. 9: Chapter in Verse.

Jazz Music

RegattabarConcertix: 876-7777
1 Bennett St., Cambridge 02138, 617-662-5000

Call for schedule.

Scullers Jazz Club

DoubleTree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston, 617-562-4111

Call for schedule.

Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: 266-1492.
Performances at Symphony Hall.
For MIT Students: Tickets are offered for Th. evening concerts (8pm) and Fri. afternoon concerts (1:30pm) and are available on the day of the concert only at the BSO Box Office at Symphony Hall (301 Mass. Ave. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.). Two tickets may be obtained with two current valid MIT student IDs, subject to availability. For updated MIT student ticket availability, call 638-9478 after 10 a.m. on the day of concert.

Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.: Corigliano: Symphony No. 2 (world premiere; commissioned by the BSO); Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3. Seiji Ozawa, conductor, Krystian Zimerman, piano. Pre-performance talk given by Marc Mandel. Call for ticket prices.

Holiday Pops

Boston Pops concerts from Dec. 8 through Dec. 31 at 3 and 7:30 p.m. most days. Conducted by

Theater

SantaLand Diaries

Through Dec. 31 at the Copley Theatre (225 Clarendon St. between Boylston and Newbury St.) A hysterically funny broadside attack against that most cherished New York extravaganza, Macy's SantaLand. Seen through the eyes of one of Santa's elves, it tells the juicy behind-the-scenes stories of what SantaLand is really about - screaming children, ferocious mothers, and crazed Santas who probably spend the rest of the year in mental wards. \$8 validated parking at Back Bay Garage. Tickets \$39. Thursday, Friday @7:30PM, Saturday @9PM: \$44. Friday 12/1 @7:30PM, Monday 12/4, Saturday 12/23 @2PM: \$39. Tuesday 12/5 @7PM (Opening Night): \$43.50. For tickets call TeleCharge at 1-800-447-7400 or visit <www.telecharge.com>. For schedule and more information call 617-747-4468 or visit <www.santalanddiaries.com>.

Antigone

Through Jan. 9, at The American Repertory Theatre (64 Brattle St., Cambridge 02138), presented by the A.R.T. and directed by Francois Rochaix. The classic Greek tragedy is presented as part of the Loeb Stage Season. Tickets \$59-\$25. Call 617-547-8300 or visit <http://www.amrep.org> for more information or to reserve tickets.

Checkhov: Three Farces and A Funeral

Dec. 8-Jan. 14. At the American

Repertory Theatre (64 Brattle St., Cambridge 02138), presented by the A.R.T. and directed by Yuri Yermolenko. Robert Brustein has taken three of Chekhov's most popular comedies - *The Proposal*, *The Bear*, and *The Wedding* - and linked them with excerpts from the playwright's own love letters and scenes from his life. You'll laugh in recognition at the age-old rituals of love, courtship, and marriage in this effervescent flight of farces. Presented as part of the Loeb Stage Season. Tickets \$59-\$25. Call 617-547-8300 or visit <http://www.amrep.org> for more information or to reserve tickets.

Comedy Connection

Mon.-Wed. at 8 p.m.; Thurs. 8:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; Sun. 7 p.m. The oldest comedy club in Boston showcases big-name, national comedians on weekends and up-and-coming local talent during the week. At 245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston. Admission \$10-\$8 (weekend prices vary). Call 248-9700 for more information and a complete schedule.

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 426-6912 for tickets and information on how to see the show for free by ushering.

Shear Madness

Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston (426-5225), indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$30-34.

Exhibits

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston, 02115,

(617) 266-5152 (Hynes Convention Center T-stop). Features a wide variety of contemporary conceptual art with shows which emphasize artists from outside the United States. Admission \$6 adults, \$4 students and seniors, free to children under 12 and members. Admission free on Thursday evenings. Wheelchair accessible.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10 (\$11 on weekends), \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18. The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Permanent Gallery Installations: "Late Gothic Gallery," featuring a restored 15th-century stained glass window from Hampton Court, 14th- and 15th-century stone, alabaster, and polychrome wood sculptures from France and the Netherlands; "Mummy Mask Gallery," a newly renovated Egyptian gallery, features primitive masks dating from as far back as 2500 B.C.; "European Decorative Arts from 1950 to the Present"; "John Singer Sargent: Studies for MFA and Boston Public Library Murals." Gallery lectures are free with museum admission.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. (723-2500), Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. The Museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center"; "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit"; "Science in the Park: Playing with Forces and Motion"; "Seeing Is Deceiving." Ongoing: "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily. Admission to Orni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors.

Other Events

Handel's Messiah

Dec. 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. Presented by the Boston Baroque, Martin Pearlman, Music Director; Soloists: Sharon Baker, soprano; Margaret Latimore, mezzo-soprano; Mark Tucker, tenor; Dean Ely, bass-baritone. At the New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall (30 Gainsborough Street, Boston). Tickets \$51-\$19. For more information call 617-484-9200 or visit <www.bostonbaroque.org>.

The Nutcracker

Through Dec. 31, 2000. Wed.-Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.; Sun. 1 p.m., 5:30 p.m. At the Wang Center for the

Performing Arts, 270 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116. 617-482-9393. Boston Ballet's *Nutcracker* features choreography by Anna-Marie Holmes, Daniel Pelzig Bruce Marks, and Sydney Leonard including new sections of choreography by Daniel Pelzig as well as the usual lavish scenery, special effects, and costumes. Filled with the wonder and magic of the holidays, *The Nutcracker* follows a young girl named Clara on her dream adventure to the music of Tchaikovsky. Tickets \$62-\$12. Call Telecharge 800-447-7400 for reservations. For additional information visit <http://www.boston.com/bostonballet>.

Of Battle and Beauty

Through Dec. 17: Photographs of China by Felice Beato. At the Boston University Art Gallery. Gallery Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. Exhibition is free and open to the public.

Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar

Through Feb. 25, 2001: The first comprehensive museum exhibition to focus on the guitar as an object d'art. Audio guide narrated by James Taylor. The exhibit covers four centuries and features more than 130 instruments from museums and private collections around the world. Highlights include a 17th-century guitar created by famous violin maker, Antonio Stradivari, and guitars owned by celebrities such as Prince, and Jimi Hendrix's 1967 Gibson Flying V. Tickets: complimentary to MFA members (Number of tickets dependent on level of membership). Adults \$16 on weekdays, \$18 on weekends. Students/Senior citizens \$14/\$16. Children 6-17 \$6 for both weekdays and weekends. Children <=5 free. Adult group visits are available. Visit <www.mfa.org> or call 617-369-3368 for more information.

New Films from the European Union

Through Dec. 9. At the Harvard Film Archive (located at the lower level of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St. Cambridge, MA). Often combining political commitments with sly reflexive humor the new generation of filmmakers which have emerged across Western Europe have created works of striking originality. The series includes films from Italy, Belgium, Iceland, Great Britain, France, Greece, Germany, Spain, and Norway. Presented in conjunction with a one day conference "European Cinema and Globalization: Cultural and Commercial Challenges" held on December 4th at the Center of European Studies, Harvard University. Tickets \$7 General, \$5 Students and Sr. Citizens. For more information and a complete schedule, call the Harvard Film Archive at 617-495-4700 or visit <www.harvardfilmarchive.org>.

The Christmas Revels

At the Sanders Theatre (45 Quincy St., Cambridge). Dec 15-17, 20-23, 28-30. Staged by Revels artistic director Patrick Swanson with music direction by George Emilen, the 30th Anniversary production of *The Christmas Revels* is filled with rousing Gospel music and soulful Spirituals, Appalachian fiddling and clogging, Shape-Note hymns and Shaker tunes, a breathtaking sword dance and a Mountain Mimmers' Play. And, as in every Revels production, audience participation is encouraged. Tickets are \$36, \$26, and \$18 for adults, \$30, \$20 and \$12 for children <12. For tickets reservations, availability, show times, and other information call 617-496-2222 or visit <www.revels.org>.

Film Festivals

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 02115. For tickets and more information, call 369-3770. Tickets for each showing are \$7, \$6 MFA members, seniors, students, unless otherwise noted.

Boston Festival of Films from Iran
Through Dec. 16. Check website for full schedule.

One More Day

Dec. 8 at 6 p.m., Dec. 16 at 3:45 p.m. (1999, 75 min., Dir. by Babak Payami.) An illicit relationship and the antidote to loneliness both blossom on a Tehran bus stop bench in *One More Day*. Each day, a man and a woman wait at the same stop, travel the same route, and discover their growing dependence on each other in a culture that condemns interaction between the sexes. Payami presents a touching story of two people struggling against urban anonymity and personal heartache to forge a redemptive connection with each other. In Farsi with English subtitles.

It's a Wonderful Life

Dec. 22-Dec. 24 at 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m. (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 2:15 p.m.) At the Brattle Theatre (40 Brattle St. Cambridge, 02138. By T. Take the Red Line to Harvard Sq.) (1946, dir. by Frank Capra with Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, et. al.) The beloved holiday classic concerning a small-town businessman facing financial ruin who wishes he'd never been born. Tickets: \$7 adults, \$4 seniors and children, \$6 all weekday shows before 5 p.m. For more information, call 617-876-6837 or visit <www.beaconcinema.com/brattle/>

The Magnetic Fields

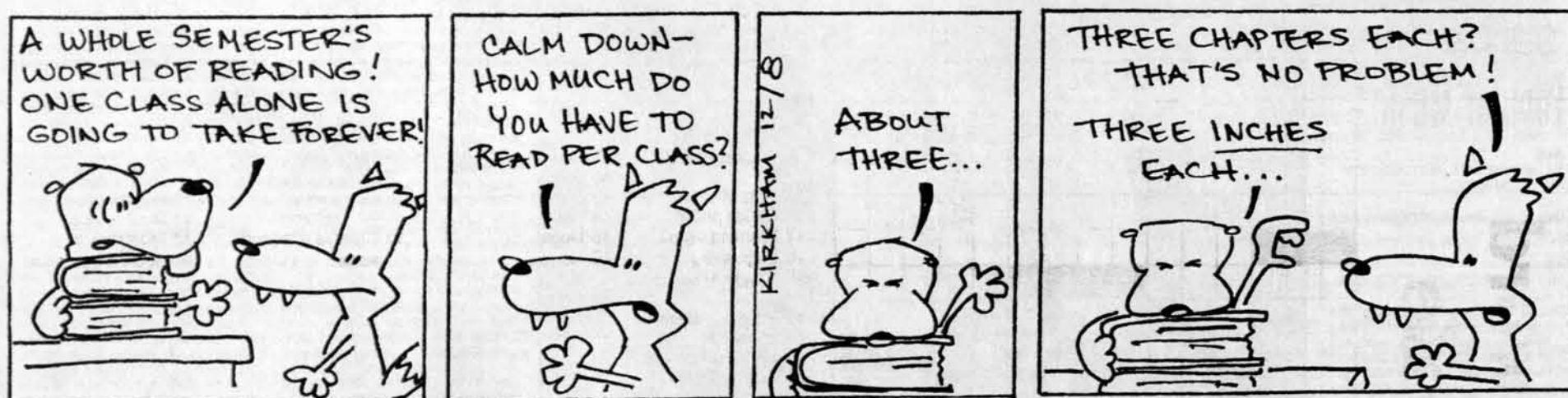
Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. Acclaimed singer/songwriter Stephin Merritt and Company will be performing all of the tracks from his magnum opus *69 Love Songs* over a two-night span at the Somerville Theater (55 Davis Square, Somerville, 02144). Tickets are \$20-\$38 and are available through Ticketmaster (617-931-2000). For more information, call the Somerville Theater at 617-625-5700.

Down with Science

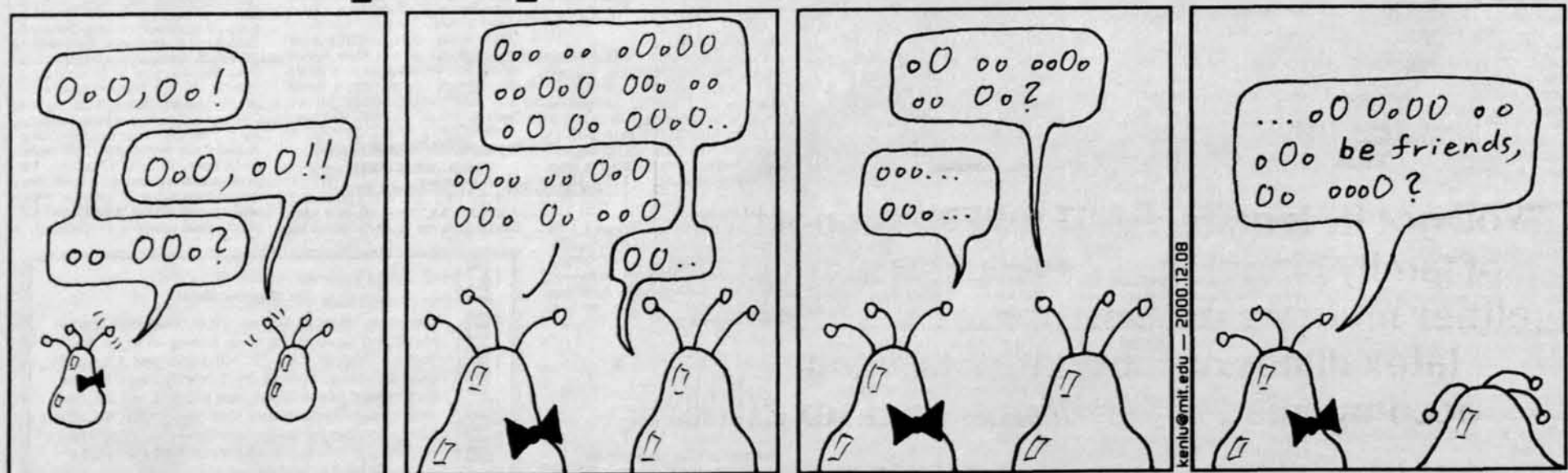
by Jennifer DiMase

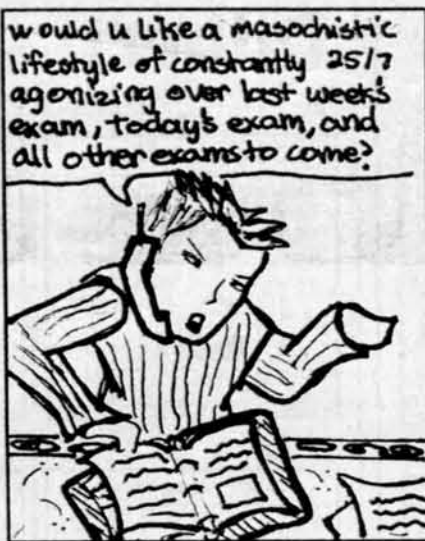


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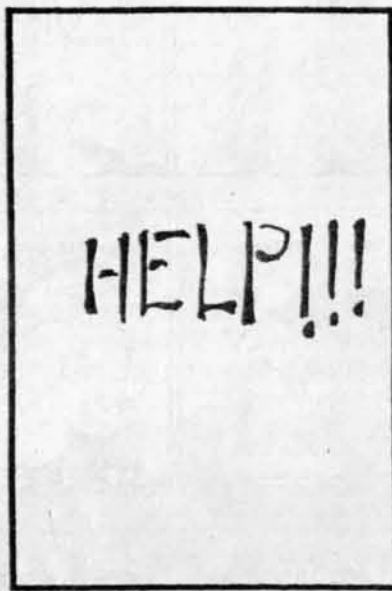
MIT3H by ToastyHen "Some words are Universal..."



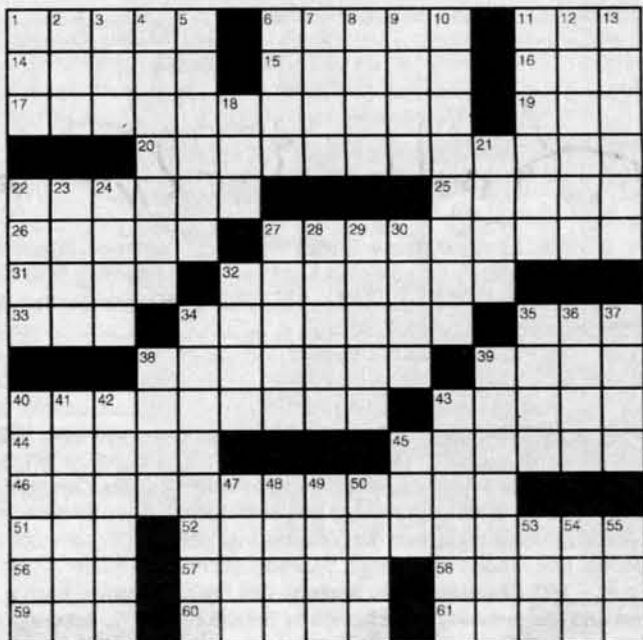


By Guan-Jong (John) Chen

Tech Life



Crossword Puzzle



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ACROSS

- 1 "Coming of Age in ..."
- 6 Sets of cards
- 11 E-mail period
- 14 Warning signal
- 15 Exclusively
- 16 Ready when you ...!
- 17 Yellow-breasted songbird
- 19 Styron's Turner
- 20 Tool for many nuts
- 22 Move stealthily
- 25 Fred's dancing sister
- 26 Loafed (about)
- 27 Disseminator
- 31 Neighbor of Vietnam
- 32 Gallinule
- 33 Psychic's letters
- 34 Excess
- 35 Pi follower
- 38 Very beginnings

- 39 Pride signal
- 40 Judges
- 43 Denoted
- 44 Path
- 45 Dogs
- 46 Narrow-mindedness
- 51 Roadhouse
- 52 Audio IDs
- 56 "Malcolm X" director
- 57 German industrial city
- 58 Lucy's landlady
- 59 Annex
- 60 Minimum
- 61 Put off

DOWN

- 1 Dolt
- 2 Clay, today
- 3 Checkers, e.g.
- 4 Electra's brother
- 5 "The Handmaid's Tale" author

- 6 Nighttime
- 7 River of Hamburg
- 8 Gun maker
- 9 Recognized
- 10 Creates a jagged edge
- 11 Actress Blythe
- 12 Novel by 5D, "Lady ..."
- 13 Restraining rope
- 18 Sleeve card
- 21 Adam's garden
- 22 Mosaic piece
- 23 Lupino and Tarbell
- 24 Drop heavily
- 27 Painful spots
- 28 Thicket
- 29 Where van Gogh painted like mad
- 30 Like so
- 32 Oscar-winner of 1936

- 34 Elevation standard
- 35 Horse color
- 36 Dock worker
- 37 Meal scraps
- 38 Show teeth
- 39 Get back together
- 40 Huns' leader
- 41 Lopped off branches
- 42 Reviewed harshly
- 43 Buoyed up?
- 45 Part of a pelvis
- 47 Misplace
- 48 Passport endorsement
- 49 Clinches
- 50 Mailed
- 53 Org. of Flames
- 54 Drink for two?
- 55 Stallone, casually

Solution, page 13



Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen

"You got it, Jennifer! MIT is VERY supportive of family planning. I personally suggest either mutual masturbation with vibrating latex dildos or foot-fetish bondage accompanied by hardcore anal sex."

MIT Department of FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

LIFE SAFETY

Installation has begun in Amherst Alley on a fire protection water pipe from Baker House to Burton Connor. Work will continue for several weeks and will disrupt daytime vehicular traffic. Excavation of a trench will cause noise, vibration and some dust.

UTILITIES UPGRADE: Albany Street Garage: As part of the utility expansion, the walkway between buildings 42 and 44 at the railroad crossing connecting Vassar Street to the Albany Garage will be closed to pedestrian traffic through early January.

FIREHOUSE INN: Construction continues on the firehouse on Main Street and of a new 7 story steel frame structure. Contact: Suffolk Construction, Inc. Co, John Laquale, Project Manager, at (617) 517-5234 or e-mail: jlaquale@scci-bos.com. Project completion: Spring 2002.

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

Excavation of a fire protection main will close part of the sidewalk in front of Building 9 and affect the service road at W20. Work will take place in the evenings and on weekends.

NW30 (GRADUATE RESIDENCE)

Pile installation during the next few weeks will cause noise disruption to the surrounding area. Project completion: August 2001.

SIMMONS HALL

Excavation of soil continues causing dust and noise to the surrounding area. Trucks removing the material may impact traffic along Vassar Street. Project completion: August 2002.

STATA CENTER

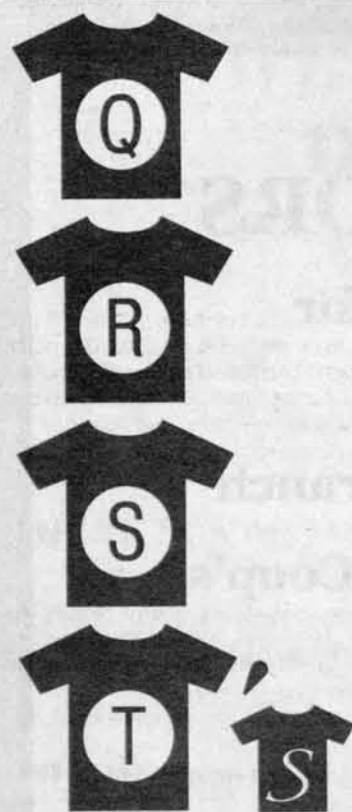
Drilling of holes for tiebacks continues for the next few weeks and will cause noise and vibration. Project completion: Fall 2003.

This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities:
web.mit.edu/facilities/www/construction/

da Wang '03, violin; Che King Leo '01, violin; Michele Auer (G), viola; Marjorie Fitzpatrick '04, cello (Mvts 1 & 4); Benjamin Ross '03, cello (Mvts 2 & 3) (Marcus Thompson, coach). free.

[illegible]

from page 11



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FRESHMAN ALERT!
PAID
UROP OPPORTUNITIES
in
CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
offers funded freshman UROPs
for
Spring 2001

See the Course One homepage
([web.mit.edu/civenv/html/academic_programs/
undergrad/urop_opportunities.html](http://web.mit.edu/civenv/html/academic_programs/undergrad/urop_opportunities.html))
on the web for a list of UROP projects.

Or

see Cynthia Stewart in the
Academic Programs Office, Room 1-281.

If you don't find a project you like, propose your own.

Funding is available
for a significant number of freshman UROPs,
first come, first served.

ATTENTION STUDENT COOP MEMBERS GET ON BOARD!



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BUSINESS**

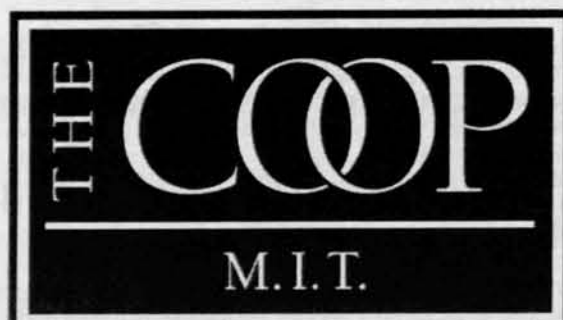
**REAL
DECISIONS**

**REAL
EXPERIENCE**

Apply to be elected to **THE COOP'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Coop is now accepting applications for nomination for election as a Student Board Member for the 2001-2002 academic year. Applications are available at any Coop branch store, or at the Member Services Office, 4th floor, of the Coop's Harvard Square Bookstore.

Final date for return of application is
FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 2000 AT 5:00PM



www.thecoop.com

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News
Hotline**

Site is **NOT** active until 12:01am Dec. 11. Site ends on Dec. 15!

* * * * *

Visit <http://xenia.media.mit.edu/lucy> and find out!

<http://web.mit.edu/swe/www/bibledrive.html>

Graduate Serves on L.A. District Council

Padilla, from Page 1

it up." He then passed 8.02 the next time and did well in school thereafter, he said.

"I support the [current] Pass/No Record policy for the freshman year," said Padilla, who said he had read about the proposed changes to eliminate Pass/No Record in the spring term of freshman year.

Padilla elected at age 25

Perhaps more surprising than Padilla's engineering background is his age: Padilla, who has been serving his first term since June last year, was elected when he was just 25 years old. He is one of fifteen councillors, some of whom have served in office longer than he has lived.

In fact, according to Padilla, his age was considered the biggest issue during his campaign for Council-

man. "Maybe after five years," Padilla said, was the common line used against his bid.

However, Padilla came out on top in the end because he was the "only one born and raised in the district." Padilla represents the Los Angeles 7th district, covering portions of the northeast San Fernando Valley. On Council, Padilla has supported open access to Internet Service Providers and has sought to improve education and the aging infrastructure.

The speech by Padilla, who was in town for a conference, was arranged by Christopher D. Smith '01, founder of the MIT Society for Political Awareness. "The SPA has tried to instill a sense that those who come from MIT can get involved in world politics," Smith said. The group has most recently brought in speakers Carla Howell and Jack E. Robinson, who both ran unsuccessfully this year for the U.S. Senate in Massachusetts.

"I support the Pass/No Record policy for the freshman year." — Alex Padilla '94, L.A. City Councilman



MAX PLANCK—THE TECH

Benjamin Brown '03 (right), gives Jack Gregg (center), director of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, and Larry Benedict (center right), Dean for Student Life, a historical tour of Chi Phi.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
THIS IS NO GAME

NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS A SWEETPEA ENTERTAINMENT SILVER PICTURES PRODUCTION
COURTNEY SOLOMON FILM "DUNGEONS & DRAGONS" JUSTIN WHALIN MARLON WAYANS
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STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th!

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SHOWCASE CINEMAS REVERE RTE. 1 & WINDING RD. 781-286-1660	SHOWCASE CINEMA RANDOLPH 251 1ST ST. 3RD FLOOR 781-963-5600	LOEWS SOMERVILLE 40 HANLEY ST. RTE. 93 333-FILM #018	GENERAL CINEMA BRAINTREE 10 OFF HIGGINS RD. RTE. 27 & 128 617-333-FILM #022	SHOWCASE CINEMAS WOBURN RTE. 128 EXIT 25 & RTE. 28 781-933-3330	LOEWS DANVERS LIBERTY TREE MALL 978-750-9019



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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
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DECEMBER 2000
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GSC Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 6, 2000

A survey on cost of living was prepared by the Housing and Community Affairs Committee and handed out to all meeting attendees. The data from this survey will be used by the GSC while lobbying for stipend increases and rent freezes.

Assistant Dean for Student Life Programs Katie O'Dair spoke about the GRT and ILG RA program. All graduate students (international students with assistantship are excluded) are welcome to apply for the GRT and Independent Living group RA positions. These graduate students will receive a token stipend and free housing. Please e-mail Katie O'Dair (kodair@mit.edu) with questions.

A representative from the MIT Federal Credit Union gave a presentation about banking options for graduate students with the Credit Union.

A resolution was passed offering condolences to President Vest's family on the death of Rebecca Vest's father.

Advisor/advisee relationship:

In the October General Council meeting, the Council unanimously voted on the funding resolution. The funding resolution attempts to ask students about the status of their funding in time for the coming term. The issue of funding is the main lever in most of the abusive advisor/advisee relationships.

The Corporation Joint Advisory Committee (CJAC) endorsed the funding resolution. CJAC members asked GSC president Soulaymane Kachani to solicit feedback from GSC representatives and graduate administrators about the advising methods used in their department.

CJAC will then compile a list of good advising methods and will present it to department heads at the February monthly department head lunch-meeting. The issue of advising will also be brought before Academic Council, and will be studied by visiting committees.

The constitution of Tech Link, a joint GSC-Sloan senate venture was presented. This constitution was tabled at the General council meeting of November 2000 and came to a vote at this meeting. The Tech Link constitution was passed by a 24-5-7 vote.

The finances available and payments till date was presented. GSC Representatives



SAMUDRA VIJAY—THE TECH

A representative of the MIT Federal Credit Union talks to Graduate Student Council Vice President Ryan Kershner (middle) and GSC President Soulaymane Kachani about ATMs on campus.

are encouraged to use their \$250 per rep and per term to organize socials within their departments and living groups. The spending for IAP will be counted as part of Fall term, so representatives can plan for IAP using their budget for Fall 2000 as well.

The GSC has sponsored the Institute Forum along with the UA and the Dean for Student Life. The amendment of the budget passed unanimously.

Committee updates

Academics, Research & Careers Committee (ARC): A professional development seminar on alternative career choices will be held on Dec 7th, 2000. A Leadershape program tailored for graduate students is being planned and will be ready by next summer. ARC is working with three administrators on this project: Blanche Staton, Associate Dean for Graduate Students, Kirk Kolenbrander, Special Assistant to The Chancellor, and Tracy Purinton, Program

Administrator.

A project is underway to establish teaching standards for courses so as to enable a better choice for students. A survey comparing the working hours of graduate students has been prepared by Ronak Bhatt.

The survey gauges to see if there is disparity between among the student community at large. All graduate students are encouraged to take part in this survey. The link to it is available from the ARC committee page in the GSC web site.

Housing & Community Affairs Committee: Cost of living survey will be used for the report to the administration about student life and stipends. The HCA is currently working on adding new safe ride routes for graduate students.

On-campus housing: The housing lottery has been revised to adjust some of the deadlines. The Mental Health Task Force is trying to understand the mental health concerns of students on campus. The Task Force has 7 students: 3 GSC reps, 3 UA

reps and 1 GRT.

Construction projects on campus: Sidney-Pacific dorm is stymied by the community's opposition on various grounds. Graduate students support the administration in its attempt to erect this dormitory soon. NW30 will provide 130 beds for graduate students by Fall 2001. This would be available for only 9 months during the year.

Publications & Publicity Committee: GSN for December is in print and should be out soon. GSN will be online beginning this issue.

Activities Committee: Athletics department is having a strategic planning meeting and graduate student input is welcome in it. Interested people could contact the activities committee chairs at gsc-ac-chair@mit.edu.

A planning group is being formed to suggest improvements at the Student Center, Walker memorial etc. A trip to the Boston Bruins game organized by the Activities committee was well attended and was a success.

FACING REALITY

JEANNE WOKES UP IN A COLD SWEAT WITH ONE THING BOILING THROUGH HER BRAIN..... WHO WAS THIS PERSON IN HER DREAMS?....

NEARBY BARRY WAS THINKING..... WHOSE EMBROIDERY AM I IN?

JEANNE REMEMBERED GOING TO A PARTY AND GETTING SHAKED OUT OF HER MIND....

BARRY REMEMBERED GETTING DRUNK AND ACTING REALLY STUPID....

EVENTUALLY THE WHOLE EVENING CAME BACK!!

WHAT DID I DO? HOW DID I GET MYSELF INTO THIS?!

WHAT ABOUT AIDS!

WHAT ABOUT.....

WHAT ABOUT.....

THEN THEY BOTH REALIZED MUCH TO THEIR RELIEF THAT UNLIKE THE REST OF US....

THEY WERE JUST CARTOON CHARACTERS!

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all members of the MIT community - students, faculty, and staff - are welcome to apply.

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january

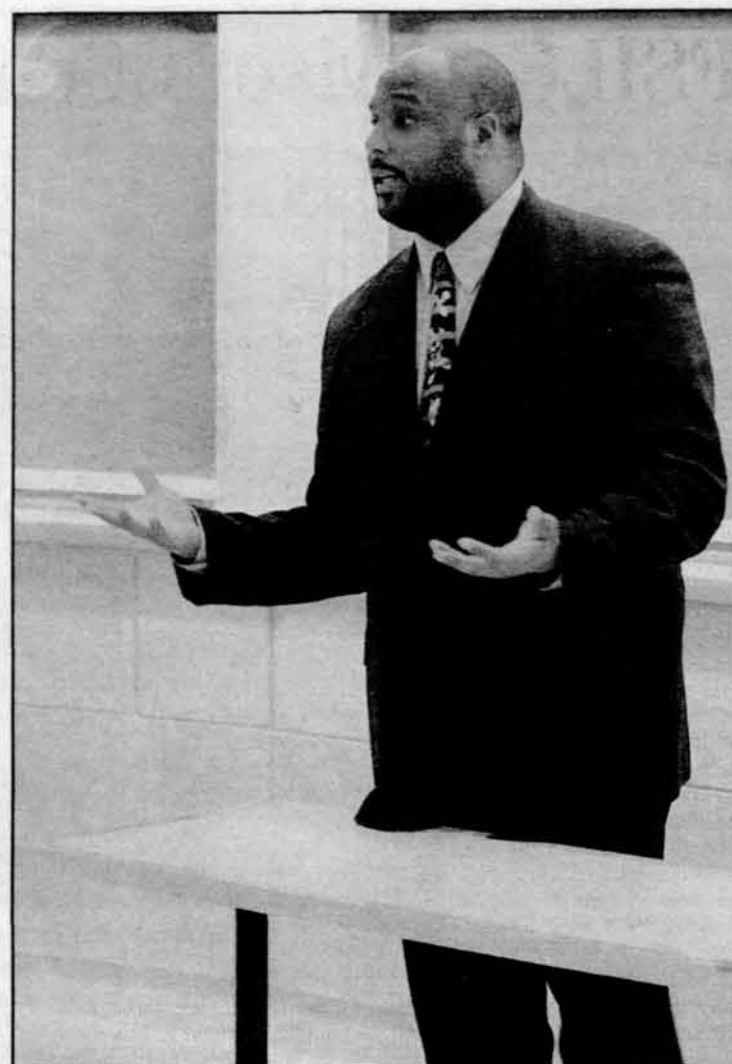
8th

APPLICATION DEADLINES: Proposals are reviewed on a monthly basis. Applications are to be received by the first school day of any month from October to May. The deadline for January is January 8. Applicants will be notified of a decision by the middle of the month.

For more information, an application, or the CCCR Resource Guide, contact the Committee on Campus Race Relations at x3-1706 or racerelations@mit.edu. web.mit.edu/ccrr/www



MIT Committee on Campus Race Relations



PEDRO L. ARRECHEA—THE TECH

Benjamin Barnes, Chairman of the Cambridge License Commission, addresses concerns from MIT living groups in a forum Tuesday meant to improve relations between the CLC and students.

Students Say Forum Bettered Relations

CLC, from Page 1

Barnes responded by urging students to look at the CLC's reaction to past incidents. "We have not taken away a license from any organizations at MIT," he said.

Daniel Chak '02 of Theta Delta Chi felt that the meeting served more to increase communication than to establish new policies. "It is good that we opened up the lines of

communication though, and maybe something will come of it in the future," he said.

"I think the meeting was productive in that a lot of goals came across in terms of what both sides' concerns were," said Aaron D. Milstein '03, also of Theta Delta Chi. "Hopefully with more meetings and more exposure to the situation, we'll be able to develop more of a two-way relationship with the CLC," he said.

MIT Urged to Reveal Plan for Construction

Town-Gown, from Page 1

those projects which are under construction or will soon begin. Curry responded by saying that MIT does necessarily not know what it is going to build next, as "where development is going depends on interest within and outside of the Institute. It wouldn't come out of a corporate prioritizing," he said.

Curry used the upcoming neuroscience building as an example, saying that recent interest in cognitive science and biology has led to the conception of a new facility.

Housing shortage emphasized

Another important issue concerned the need for more housing in Cambridge. Cambridge residents paid particular attention to the fate of the MIT-owned Metropolitan Storage Warehouse on Massachusetts

Ave. and Vassar St.

Many people believe that MIT should convert this facility to housing when the lease on it expires.

Lee Farris, a member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, believes that MIT should work to create mixed housing which is affordable to both students and community members.

Meeting renews old tradition

Planning Board Vice-Chair Thomas Anniger said that the annual town-gown reports began in 1991, following a recommendation by a committee formed by the mayor. In recent years, however, the Board has not requested these presentations from Cambridge's universities.

Harvard University will meet with the Board on December 12th., and Lesley College will meet with the Board in January.

END OF TERM EXTENDED HOURS!

COPYTECH

11-004

Monday Dec. 11 8am - 11pm
Tuesday Dec. 12 8am - 11pm

2 CENT COPY DAY

Tuesday Dec. 12

11-004	8am - 11pm
E52-045	8am - 6pm
W20	10am - 11pm

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December 9th & 10th/open Noon to 8pm!

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This space donated by The Tech

FSILG Advisors Could Boycott Meeting

IFC, from Page 1

BLB through the office change.”
Pheiffer also hopes to set up an agreement whereby MIT can conduct its own investigations into alcohol-related incidents and submit reports to the CLC, who would then decide whether or not to hold hearings.
“It would save us time, it would save them time, and it would save everybody grief,” Pheiffer said.
Although elections proceeded smoothly, FSILG members protested the placement of stronger Resident Advisors in fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.
A meeting has been scheduled for January between members of the MIT administration and the resident advisors of all FSILGs. The purpose of this meeting will be to concretely define the new role of the RA.
Daniel Chak '02 urged IFC members to take action by having their RAs boycott the upcoming meeting. While MIT made resident advisors mandatory for FSILGs in summer 1998, their role has never been formally defined.
In addition, an RA is required only if an FSILG wishes to house freshmen. It is unclear what this will mean in fall 2002, when all freshmen will be housed on campus. Chak said that the upcoming RA

2001 IFC Officers		
Officer	Position	Residence
Rory Pheiffer	President	Zeta Psi
Bryan Schmid	Vice President	Delta Tau Delta
Thomas Fisher	Judicial Committee Chairman	Phi Kappa Sigma
Andrew Yue	Risk Manager	Kappa Sigma
Isaac Dinner	Treasurer	Beta Theta Pi
Christine Ortiz	External Relations Committee Chairman	Alpha Phi
Dan Yoo	Community Service Committee Chairman	Phi Delta Theta
Dave Nguyen	Inter-FSILG Relations Committee Chairman	Phi Sigma Kappa
David Lobosco	New Member Programs	Theta Chi
Yolanda Fan	Secretary	Alpha Chi Omega

meeting is just another step in MIT's plan to strip FSILGs of their independence.
Chak said that this meeting was timed by the administration to circumvent a student response. If FSILG RAs fail to attend the upcoming meeting, RAs won't have a role and the position will cease to exist.
However, Brosnan feels that FSILGs should send their RAs to the upcoming meeting. “I personally agree that if we have RAs we should send them to this meeting,” he said. “Many feel lost because they don't know what their job function is.”
While he agrees that MIT has infringed upon the rights of FSILGs, Pheiffer suggests that Chak and others who feel strongly about the issue should talk to the administration instead of boycotting the meeting. Pheiffer also said that a boycott on the RA meeting may put FSILGs whose national organization requires an RA in a difficult position.
If the IFC staged such a boycott, MIT would proceed without it, said Director of Project Development Stephen D. Immerman. If the meeting leads to eliminating the RAs, “so be it,” he said, “but this issue of

independence is a fallacy. We are together whether we like it or not.”
While some students agreed with Chak's complaints, Pheiffer believes that students will be able to communicate with such new administrators as Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.
“During the past twelve weeks that Larry Benedict has been here, he's made extreme efforts to repair the lack of trust that has existed between the administration and students. I think that stopping the RA meeting would be a step back in our effort to rebuild this trust,” Pheiffer said.

The Sloan Subject Prioritization System Bidding Dates for Spring, 2001 Classes

<http://sloanbid.mit.edu>

Leave password field blank, create new password under 'Personal Information'

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan courses:
Opens 12:00 p.m., Monday, December 11
Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 15

Waitlist-Only Round for closed classes:
Opens 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 20
Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 5

Waitlists for Closed Sloan Classes are part of the Course Bidding System, beginning in Round II.

Successful bids appear on your Registration Form on February 5 and will be posted on the bidding website as of December 20 -- write down your password to check results!

<join@the-tech.mit.edu>

MITCP's Cloud 9: Sex and Stereotypes on Stage



JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

The MIT Community Players present *Cloud 9*, a no-holds-barred look at sex and stereotypes, this Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Kresge Little Theater.

(left) Edward (Becky Landsberg G) flirts with African explorer Harry (Bob Mussett)

(above) Governess Ellen (Jaqueline Kirtley, left) spontaneously kisses the lady of the house, Betty (John Hume).

mass art

smfa
BOSTON

MIT UNDERGRADUATES

**SPRING 2001
CROSS REGISTRATION**

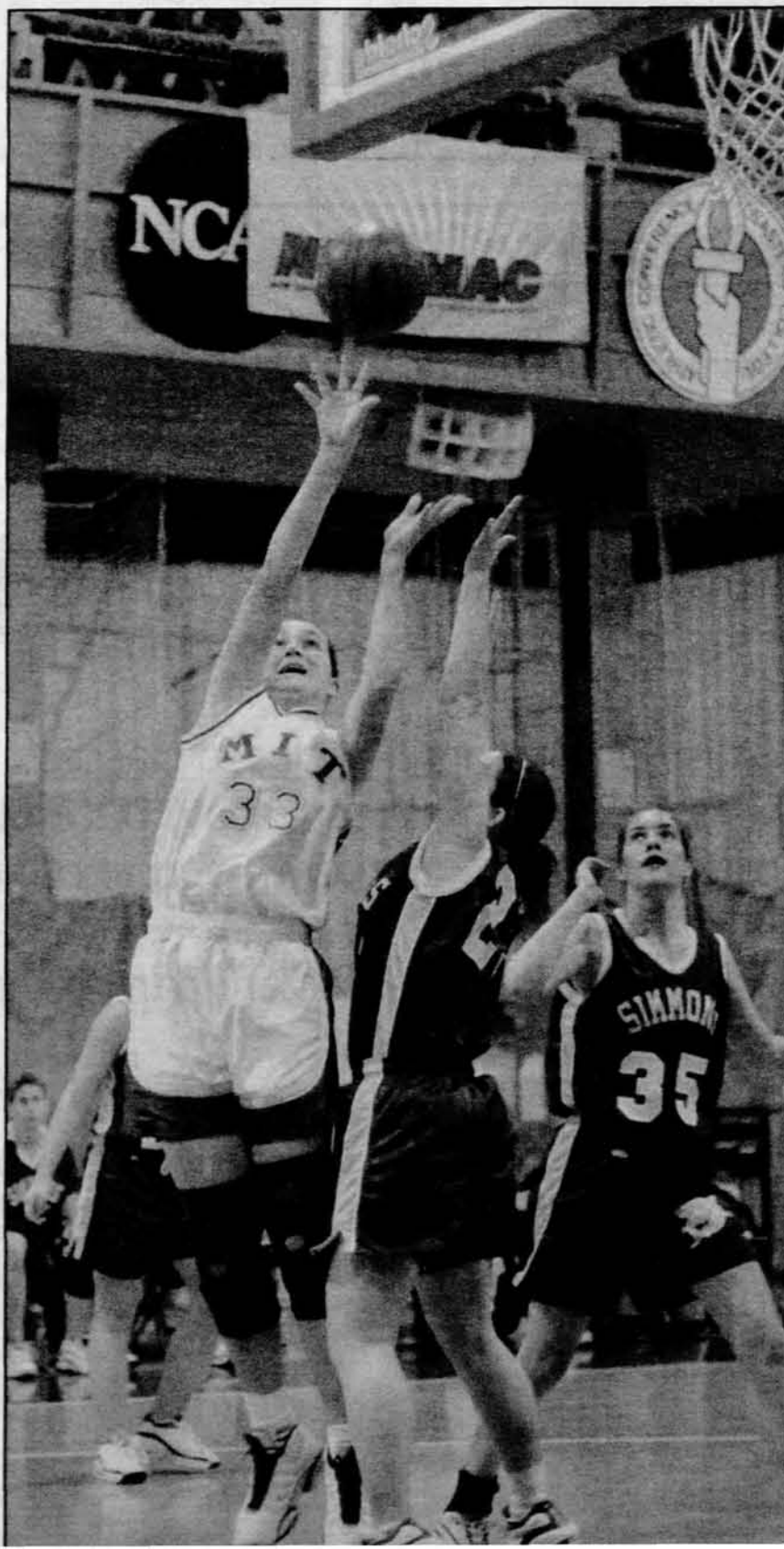
at the Massachusetts
College of Art &
the School of the
Museum of Fine Arts

This exchange program provides up to 10 MIT undergraduates per semester the opportunity to enroll in selected courses at each of these nationally-recognized institutions for MIT credit. All courses are pass/D/fail.

**Application Deadline:
DECEMBER 13, 2000**

Applications are available at the Student Services Center (11-120), Architecture HQ (7-337) or Visual Arts Program (N51-315b)

Please call the Visual Arts Program at 253-5229 or email slb@mit.edu



Cristina Estrada '01 (33) creeps in under the basket to make a shot during the women's basketball game on Tuesday. The Engineers defeated the Simmons College Sharks 77-25. This latest win brings the Engineer's record to 5-2.

AARON D. MURRAY—THE TECH